

# The People.

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

ONE PENNY. [a.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

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LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

CRISIS IN SPAIN.

Resignation of Señor Sagasta.  
Madrid, January 3.—A Ministerial crisis exists here, Señor Sagasta having tendered to the Queen his resignation and that of his colleagues. Señor Sagasta will endeavour to form a new Cabinet on the basis of a reconciliation between the different groups of the Liberal party.

THE UNITED STATES.

New York, January 4.—The Democrats in the Kentucky State Legislature have renominated Mr. Joseph C. S. Blackburn as United States senator for that State. The nomination is equivalent to election.

AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION.

Melbourne, January 4.—The conference to consider Sir Henry Parkes's federation scheme will meet here in the first week of February. Delegates will be sent from all the Australasian colonies, including New Zealand, and probably also Fiji and New Guinea.

THE REPORTED REVOLUTION IN AFGHANISTAN.

Saint Petersburg, January 2.—Intelligence received here from Trans-Caspian territory gives a denial to the reports of a revolution in Afghanistan. The Amir is residing quietly at Mazar-Shirif, and caravans are trading uninterruptedly between Balkh and Afghanistan.

THE COLLIERY STRIKES IN BELGIUM.

Liège, January 3.—Affairs in the Seraing colliery district to-day wear an improved aspect. The number of miners on strike has decreased, and the pits on the left bank of the Meuse are in full work.

ARREST OF A NIHILIST LEADER.

A New Secret Society.

(EXCHANGE COMPANY'S TELEGRAM.)  
Paris, January 3.—Intelligence received via Vienna announces the arrest at Warsaw of the Nihilist chief Piero Gross. Revolutionary pamphlets and letters compromising several officers were found upon him.

According to a Vienna correspondent, thirty-two officers have been arrested at St. Petersburg on the charge of having formed a secret society with the object of abolishing the autocratic régime and founding a constitutional monarchy.

(CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAMS.)

ANTICIPATED RESIGNATION OF M. TIRARD.

Paris, January 4.—The *Le Temps* states this morning that immediately on the re-opening of the Chambers, M. Tirard will announce his resignation from the Cabinet owing to his having accepted the Presidency of the Cour des Comptes, or Accountant General's Office.

KILLED BY A SNOW SLIDE.

San Francisco, January 4.—A terrible fatality is reported from Sierra City, where no less than eighty persons have been killed by a snow slide.

A FISHING VESSEL SEIZED.

New York, January 2.—Another United States fishing vessel, the property of a New York merchant, has been seized by the authorities of British Columbia. The master has been brought to the notice of the United States Government, and Mr. Blaine is investigating the circumstances.

LOSS OF A SCHOONER AND FOURTEEN LIVES.

New York, January 3.—The schooner *Veturia*, from New York for Madeira, has been so long unheeded of her owners have no option but to believe her lost. She carried a crew of nine, and five passengers.

INDISPOSITION OF M. DE LESSEPS.

Paris, January 3.—A rumour has been prevalent here that M. de Lesseps is dangerously ill. Inquiries, however, elicit the fact that though he is eminent engineer he indisposed his illness is only slight, and occasions no anxiety.

THE SITUATION IN BRAZIL.

New York, January 2.—The steamship *Strabo*, which has just arrived here from Brazil, confirms previous reports received from similar sources as to the unsatisfactory state of affairs in Rio de Janeiro and elsewhere in the Republic. Everything, it is stated, is outwardly quiet, but this is attributed to the fact that the Provisional Government has control of the army, which overawes the inhabitants. Nobody, however, has faith in the self-constituted governors, and every one is waiting for others to initiate a genuine Republican movement that shall establish a popular Government and inspire the confidence of all classes. Troops constantly patrol the streets of Rio de Janeiro calling "All's well" and warning any suspected person that he will instantly be shot if he attempts any disturbance or instigates others to insubordination.

The Brazilian Finance Minister estimates the expenditure on account of the Budget for the current year at about £8,000,000 milreis, to meet which there are £2,000,000 milreis in the Treasury, but the balance of the interior loan will cover the deficit. The public debt amounts to £1,072,000,000 milreis.

A THEATRE BURNED DOWN.

(CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAM.)

Bern, January 2.—A fire broke out last night in the theatre at Zurich, just at the close of the evening's performance. The audience were all able to escape and no casualty is reported. The building, however, was entirely consumed, and nothing was saved from the ruins.

SUICIDE OF A WILLESDEN GENTLEMAN.

An independent gentleman named David Charles Lasby, aged 40, residing at The Beeches, Walmsley, Willesden, on Friday, committed suicide in a most determined manner. Deceased left his bed, and, taking a pin-fire rifle, placed the muzzle in his mouth and discharged it with his foot, blowing the top of the skull completely away. The deceased was discovered shortly after by Mrs. Lasby and her servant maid.

The sixth annual ball of the inspectors of the E.

Division of the metropolitan police will take place at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen street, on Wednesday next, under the patronage of Mr. Gainsford Bruce, M.P., for Holloway, and of Mr. Superintendent Steggles, of Bow-street.

## THE RUSSIAN INFLUENZA IN LONDON.

### 250 Children Attacked.

Postmen and Policemen Affected.

There is no longer room for doubt that the so-called Russian influenza has reached England. Not only the medical practitioners who attend upon the rich, but the hospital surgeons who, in the out-patient departments of our great hospitals, minister to the poor, describe as those of a new disease to this country, but as corresponding to what have been reported to us from abroad.

At the Royal Free Hospital, in Gray's Inn-road, there have been during the last ten days a few cases treated daily. The persons affected are patients, and the number has gradually increased until it now averages about a dozen or fifteen each morning. St. Bartholomew's Hospital has also had a few cases under treatment daily.

At the Central Telegraph Office a number of the employés are absent through attack of influenza, though none of the cases so far as can be ascertained, are of the severe kind reported from the continent. On the 1st of January the number of males absent from the head office was 100, and from the outlying offices twenty, and there were also fifty-four female absences, making a total of 174. On the following day the total had increased to 196, of which 172 were from the head office, including fifty-one females, and the rest from outlying offices. Of the total number four were certified as being cases of infectious disease. The usual number of absences on the sick list is forty males and twenty-five females. The increase in the number of cases of sickness is attributed by the medical officer to the prevalence of the epidemic of influenza, but although the cases require prompt treatment and nursing, they are not of a serious character, and have been unattended by complications. Within the last few days there has been an extraordinary increase in the number of cases of sickness among the employés of the Post Office Department, both at the head offices and at the various branches throughout London. Taking the city of London and its suburbs, there are now 400 more absences through sickness than is usual, the average normal number being 250 or 300 per day. At the head office alone there are 200 extra cases of sickness. This large increase is said to be mainly due to influenza, colds, and sore throats. The influenza, however, is of a mild type, and, based as the figures quoted may appear, need excite no great alarm, when it is remembered that these are all the cases known out of an establishment staff of 12,000 people. It must also be borne in mind that the postal employés are subject to complaints of this nature at this particular season, when they have a great deal of extra work to perform, and are exposed to sudden changes of temperature. Among the branch offices, those in the south-western districts and at Paddington seem to be more affected than others.

Alarm at Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

The influenza epidemic seems to have descended in full force upon Dr. Barnardo's homes in the East-end, and up to Friday afternoon close upon 200 ex-waifs and strays were under its baneful influence. The hospital accommodation has been found inadequate for the special demand, and a number of dormitories have been requisitioned, during wards.

Dr. Milne, the medical officer of the homes, in the course of an interview with a reporter, stated that the young sufferers were under the care of nurses, who every hour or so give them milk and water, which is almost the only sustenance they take. Dr. Milne, in describing the symptoms of the influenza, said that in nearly every case there has been in the first instance an acute frontal headache, followed by utter prostration, with sharp abdominal pains immediately under the ribs. The doctor could not account for this, but remarked that if it had been a little more to the front in the pit of the stomach, he would not have taken any particular notice of it. The malady in the cases under his care had taken between three and four days to develop, and the temperature of the patient had gone from the norm of 98.4 to generally 101 degrees, a few to 105, and one considerably over that, indicating a very high state of fever. There has also been considerable pulse excitement, the beats numbering as many as 140 to the minute. Dr. Milne said that the illness itself was not dangerous if the patient were at once put to bed when there came the first indications of the influenza, but if this precaution were delayed, the malady would be intensified and protracted. The lads of about 17 years of age were the greatest sufferers, experiencing pains in the loins, abdomen, and chest, stiffness in legs and arms, besides having the acute frontal headache.

Cases in the Suburbs.

In addition to the cases reported from the East-end, there are several well-authenticated cases in the neighbourhood of Clapham Junction. Among the latest victims of the epidemic is Mrs. Bernard Beere, who since Monday has been unable to take part in the performances at the Garrick Theatre. It is said that Captain O'Shea has for the last few days been confined to his house by an attack of influenza. He is, however, progressing satisfactorily towards recovery, and is able to sit up. Another death is recorded in London. Among the deaths registered in the Marylebone district is one which is said to be from the effects of the epidemic. In the East-end a large number of constables have had to go on the sick list suffering from the influenza epidemic. At the Limehouse Station twenty-four constables are laid up with this complaint, and fourteen officers at the Arbour-square Police Station, while the divisional surgeons are attending a large number of those stationed at Leman-street.

The Epidemic Abroad.

From Paris it is stated that the epidemic shows no sign of subsiding. Among its latest victims is one of Lord Lytton's children, Viscount Knobworth, who has rather a sharp attack. A telegram says that the epidemic shows considerable decline. The number of deaths on Wednesday was 36, as compared with 46 on the previous day.

Statistics published by the German Imperial Board of Health confirm the statement that the number of influenza patients is decreasing in the capital. On the other hand, the fatal cases of acute inflammation of the respiratory organs during the third week of December rose from 51 to 124. The malady is spreading more and more throughout the north of Germany, and is also extending in the south. It has broken out in Cologne, which is always unhealthy. An exceptionally large proportion of the population are ill, and there has been an increase in the death rate. Mr. Le Poer Trench, First Secretary of the

British Embassy at Berlin, was one of the first people to suffer from the influenza, and died here November, and the attack has proved very severe. He was laid up during the first three weeks of December, after which an improvement set in, and he went to Dresden for a change of air. He is now convalescent, and has resumed his duties at the embassy.

The influenza still continues to spread in Vienna. Among the latest patients are Countess Scherzer, Under-secretary for Foreign Affairs, and the well-known musical conductor, Hans Richter. The mortality in Vienna is usually only one per day, but since the influenza has become more rampant the daily death roll has risen to 110.

The epidemic made its first appearance in Athens a few days ago, and, as in the case of Vienna, it may be assumed to have been introduced by sailors. The epidemic is of a malignant character. No cases have been reported.

The mortality in Madrid continues to be heavy. The influenza shows a slight diminution there, but appears to be spreading in the provinces, especially at Barcelona.

The disease is spreading in Rome, Naples, and Modena. From the last-named place it is reported that the pupils at the military school have been dismissed to their homes owing to the epidemic.

Cholera on the March towards Europe.

There is unfortunately, says the *Times*, but too good reason for believing that the epidemic of cholera, which has for so many months hung about the Tigris and Euphrates valleys and the interior of Mesopotamia, has made considerable inroads into Persia. There is no doubt of its having crossed the western boundary of that empire, and it has been received from time to time, but it is now announced to the Faculty of Medicine of Paris that there has been a remarkable increase of the disease in Central Asia and on the Turco-Persian frontier, and that the inhabitants are fleeing northwards. Those who can afford the journey are endeavouring to reach Russian ports on the Caspian, and remembering that this is the route into Europe which cholera has so often taken before, it is apprehended that it must be regarded as one of no small gravity. This is the more so, because the Central Asian towns and fishing villages have a bad reputation in regard to those sanitary circumstances which are known to favour the diffusion of cholera.

THE O'SHEA DIVORCE CASE.

Mr. Parnell Served with the Citation.

Mr. Parnell was at three o'clock on Thursday afternoon served with the citation and petition in the action for divorce brought by Captain W. H. O'Shea against his wife and against Mr. Parnell as co-respondent. The service was effected by Mr. E. F. Day, solicitor to Captain O'Shea, who attended the offices of Messrs. Lewis and Lewis in response to a communication from Messrs. Lewis. There was no one present when the service took place, with the exception of two messengers, Lewis's clerks. Mr. Parcell, on receiving the document, made no observation. The citation and petition in the action was served on Mrs. O'Shea, the respondent, at Brighton, on the evening of New Year's Day. According to the *Evening Standard*, the statement that Mr. Parnell decided not to appear in Parliament pending the trial of Captain O'Shea's petition, and that the leadership of the Irish party will devolve on Mr. Justin McCarthy, is devoid of foundation.

ATLANTIC LINER IN COLLISION.

Loss of Life.

The White Star mail steamer *Britannic*, inward bound from New York, landed at Liverpool on Friday the pilot and five men belonging to the Cornish brigantine *Carowitz*, which had been struck after a collision with the *Britannic* on the previous night. The captain of the *Carowitz* was drowned, and the account of his drowning, as given by the survivors, shows that he had a terrible experience. The *Carowitz* was a brigantine of about 350 tons burthen, and was going to Buncrana, Donegal, with half-clay. On Thursday evening, about half-past seven o'clock, she was in the Cromy Channel, and about entering the Mersey, when a steamer appeared, and a collision occurred. The steamer, which turned out to be the *Britannic*, struck the *Carowitz* on the port quarter, and sternally went through her, cutting off about one-third of her stern. The *Britannic* went down like a stone. One of the crew went to the boat and tried to rescue him, but he was the only man to whom the captain spoke. The poor fellow just remarked that his ship was gone, and in that instant the vessel founders. All the crew were in the water, but most of the surface. Fortunately, when the vessel sank, some portion of her masts were above water, and to this fact all the survivors owe their lives. Several pathetic incidents were reported. One young fellow, who was never heard to groan from a complaint, was unable to ascend any further. The young man had on with one hand, and with the other clasped his gradually sinking companion. One on the mate, who was also up the rigging, the young man was able to rescue the other, who proved to be the oldest man on board, who was saved by the youngest. The captain, whose name was Peter Pengelly, was not afterwards seen. He was a native of Looe, in Cornwall, and leaves a widow and five children. Two boats were launched from the *Britannic* with considerable promptness, and in about fifteen minutes the shipwrecked people were taken out of the rigging. It was a terribly cold night, and some of the men, especially the mates, were suffering from numbness when landed. One boat put the survivors on board the *Britannic*, and the other cruised round in search of the captain, but he was not found. A collar of the captain, but it was not found. The men speak in the highest praise of death. The men speak in the highest praise of the kindness of all on board the *Britannic*, where they were supplied with warm clothing until their own was dried. The weather at the time of the collision was somewhat foul.

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A MAN SHOT IN SOUTHWARK.

A shooting affray took place on Saturday afternoon outside the Lambeth Gas Works, but it had not, as was first alleged, any connection with the recent gas strike. A colour-man, named Higgins, who was discharged on Saturday from the gas company, and who received his wages on Friday, entered into an altercation with some lightermen as he left the works, and, drawing a pistol, fired a shot which hit one of the crowd. Higgins then ran away, but was followed and arrested. He says an attempt was being made to steal his watch.

ICE FATALITY.

A sad ice accident happened near Swindon, Wilts, on Friday. A boy named Franklin was sliding on a pond when the ice gave way and he fell in. Another lad, named Thomas Lance, aged 10 years, who went to his rescue, was also immersed, and both were drowned.

Six evictions for non-payment of rent were carried out on Friday on the Sampson Estate, at Southgate, on Clare.

## DARING ESCAPE OF PRISONERS IN GLASGOW.

After a number of serious cases had been dealt with at Glasgow on Friday, by Sheriff Guthrie, the prisoners were taken upstairs to the cells to await removal in the prison van. About four o'clock the van drew up outside the door leading from the County Buildings. It is the custom to have only one constable in charge of the van, irrespective of the number of prisoners it may contain. Several of the criminals had been put into the van, and when the policeman went in to put them in their proper places, they turned upon him and pinned him up in the corner. Their attempt to escape were, however, frustrated by a sheriff's officer and a policeman, who, happening to be at hand, promptly closed the door of the van, shutting the constable in with the prisoners. The van was then driven over to the central police office, a short distance away, and into the courtyard, where, the gates having been closed, the policeman was released from his disagreeable position. The van was then driven back to the County Buildings, where it received its full complement of prisoners. It then proceeded in the direction of Duke-street Prison, but when it reached there it was found that part of the flooring of the van had been ripped up, the prisoners apparently having somehow obtained knives. The van is divided into compartments, each accommodating four persons. The dooring of one of these compartments had been lifted up, and the four men who were inside had dropped through on to the street and made good their escape. The men are said to be well known housebreakers.

Arrest of One of the Men.

A later telegram states that Alexander Macdonald, aged 19, one of the four prisoners who escaped, was caught on Friday night. He had been serving his apprenticeship as a railway employee who was only rated at £25 a year. Mr. Macdonald, a constable in charge of the van, was amazed when he opened his van and found the men gone.

THE "JUBILEE PLUNGER" AND HIS CITATION.

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## THE LONDON STRIKES.-VI.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT).

My readers should now be in a position to form their own conclusions on the general bearings of the labour questions raised by these strikes. I have shown them—(a) the amount of wealth annually produced, (b) by whom it is produced, and (c) how, when produced, it is distributed. I have shown also—(d) the amount of labour (measured by hours) that is expended on the production of that wealth, (e) by whom that labour is expended, and (f) the mass of unemployed labour that can find no occupation, and that stands idly in the market-place waiting to be employed. And the questions which my readers have to answer for themselves and to themselves are two. They are: Is it expedient to distribute the labour of the country more equally, so that there shall be no unemployed? and, if labour were so distributed, is there such a margin in the gross amount of wealth produced as would maintain the wages of the workers at their present level? My readers, as I have said, are now in a position to answer these questions by the light of the facts I have already set before them. But there is one other consideration, a very weighty one, which I must add, and which has a direct bearing on the first of the two foregoing questions. It is that England has a poor law. By that law the State has taken upon itself the obligation to protect all its citizens from death by starvation. Now it is clear that the unemployed adult male workers whom we have amongst us in these islands live somehow. Yet it is equally clear that they do not earn their own living; nor are they maintained by anybody outside our own shores. It follows, therefore, that in some way or other we support them. How is it done? There are only three ways in which a man who does not work can live. He must either beg, borrow, or steal. The unemployed workman falls into one or other of these categories. He becomes either a beggar, a borrower, or a thief. Now, with regard to the borrowing, one word will suffice. It is seldom bona fide being generally only another form for begging or stealing. In many cases, no doubt, the workman-borrower would gladly repay if he could, but as he continues out of employment, it is impossible for him to do so. He is not more unwilling than richer men to meet his obligations; he is only less able. So we see that, speaking practically, the element of borrowing may be left out of the calculation, and we then find ourselves face to face with the startling fact that this mass of unemployed workmen, with their families, are maintained in idleness, often in criminal idleness, by the rest of the community. It is not possible to realise offhand the tremendous weight of this load. It is a point that has to be thought over again and again before all its bearings are seen. We have first to take all the nominal and recognised charges connected with our State pauper administration, and then to add to it, if we can, the expenditure on all the thousand and one public and private charitable and benevolent establishments and institutions, finishing with a guess—for it can only be a guess—at the immense mass of private charity personally dispensed, and then you will have some idea of the size of the national pauper bill. Turn next to the criminal page. Take again all the nominal and recognised charges connected with our State criminal administration, add to it the really incalculable amount spent in criminal proceedings by citizens in their private capacity, finishing with a guess at the amount of time, trouble, and money expended by these citizens on persecutions against crime, and you will then begin to realise how very expensive our criminals are. There is one deduction to be made here. All crime does not spring from poverty. In fact, there are some particular crimes that are almost always engendered by excessive wealth. But a large bulk of crime, probably one half, springs from poverty and its twin sisters, ignorance and drunkenness. And when my readers are answering to themselves the two questions I have set forth above, they must remember the price we pay in the shape of these vast expenditures on our paupers and criminals for keeping these workless men.

Having now finished my exposition of the general question, I propose to conclude these articles by giving a few biographical particulars about one or two of the principal leaders of the London strikes, and a short sketch of their intended plan of operations.

Mr. John Burns was born at Vauxhall, London, on November 23rd, 1838, so that he is now just over thirty-one years of age. His parents were both Scotch, his mother coming from Aberdeen and his father belonging to the Ayrshire family that gave to Scotland its immortal bard. John received some education at Christ Church School Battersea, but his father being only a working engineer, the boy was taken from school at 10 years of age and sent to help to earn his living at Price's candle works in Battersea. Subsequently he took to his father's trade, and went as a rivet-boy to Wilson's engineering works, at Vauxhall, and afterwards to the works of Mr. Thomas Horn, engineer, Millbank, where he remained, serving his apprenticeship, until he was 21 years of age. Shortly after this Mr. Burns went out to Africa as foreman engineer on board a steamer. While there he came across a copy of Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," and, having some leisure, he devoted much time to its perusal. It was thus, Mr. Burns says, that he first began to learn the lesson of the rights of man. As a sample of Mr. Burns's courage, it may be mentioned that one day one of the crew fell overboard, and Burns, although on the sick list at the time, jumped at once into the water and rescued the drowning seaman. Returning to England after an absence of two years, Mr. Burns settled down as a working engineer in Battersea. He now began to take an active part in workmen's agitations, joined a small body called the Democratic Confederation, and harangued the unemployed and discontented wherever and whenever an opportunity offered. At the general election of 1858 he contested West Nottingham against the then sitting Liberal member, Colonel Seely. Mr. Burns had no money to fight the contest with, his supporters being all poor workmen. He had, moreover, to contend against the influence of Liberal grand daddies and so-called "labour members," who like Mr. Henry Broadhurst, went down to Nottingham and did all they could to secure their fellow工作man's defeat. In the result Mr. Burns polled only 508 votes, and Colonel Seely was triumphantly returned. In the spring of the following year the West-end riots took place, and Burns, with Mr. Champion and two others, was tried for causing the same. After five days' trial at the Old Bailey the jury returned a verdict of acquittal, and Mr. Justice Cave, in discharging the accused, paid a high compliment to their motives and conduct. In the following year, 1859, Mr. Burns, accompanied by Mr. Cunningham-Graham, M.P., tested the right of public meeting in Trafalgar-square, for which both he and his companion justly received six weeks' imprisonment in a London prison. Mr. Burns came out of Holloway wiser, if not a sadder, man. He took an early opportunity of wiping the mud of the Democratic Confederation off his shoes, some of the members of which body had wisely distinguished themselves more by their discretion than by their courage on that "Bloody Sunday" in Trafalgar-square. He stood for Battersea at the County Council election last year, and was returned by an overwhelming majority. He is now the accepted Socialist candidate for the Parliamentary representation, and his friends express the utmost confidence about his election. The official Liberal party, resenting Mr. Burns's independent attitude in politics, at one time attempted to start a party candidate in the person of a Mr. J. Lawson Walton, a barrister, but the attempt was a ludicrous fiasco. Mr. Walton, like the dove that issued from the ark, could not find in Battersea as much political ground as would rest the sole of his foot, and consequently he grudgingly retired in Mr. Burns's favour. An excellent Conservative candidate, Mr. Chinnock, is in the field, and between him

and Mr. Burns the contest promises to be close. The Burns party are very frank about the matter. They say that they have no special quarrel with the Conservative party, and don't want to be disagreeable unless they are compelled. Of Mr. Burns's share in the great dockers' strike it is unnecessary to speak here. Everybody knows all about it. And whether we agree or disagree with the object of the strike or its methods, we must all admit that it was most skilfully managed from the workmen's point of view. Of Mr. Burns's work on the London County Council, little is known, as it is not done out of the sight of the public eye. I ought to add that when Mr. Weston retired the Battersea Liberals and Radicals convened a public meeting, and invited Mr. Burns to address them. Mr. Burns did so, announcing himself as an independent workman's candidate. At the close of Mr. Burns's address, it was suggested that a resolution should be passed formally adopting him as the Liberal and Radical candidate, but Mr. Burns himself promptly interposed a vote on the proposal, informing them that they might pass a resolution of approval of his candidature if they liked, but that he could not submit to being adopted by them as their candidate. He retained his independence and his right to vote for whatever party or what-over measures he thought best in the interest of the workers. It was a bitter pill, and the Battersea Liberals and Radicals made a wry face in swallowing it. But they knew they could not help themselves, and so, putting the best face they could on the business, they cheerfully adopted a resolution in the sense Mr. Burns had indicated. The Conservatives, of course, had no reason to back out. Their principles are as light to darkness compared with those possessed by Mr. Burns, and he could never represent them in Parliament, try as he might.

## TIME IS MONEY.

A very original parting between a husband and wife recently took place at the New York docks. The lady was about to make the voyage to Europe alone, like many other fair Americans, while her lord stayed at home to work and supply her with the necessary funds for her tour. After placing his wife on the Cunard liner which was to convey her to Liverpool, the husband withdrew to the landing-stage, and addressed a group of men, who were loitering about, in the following terms:—"Which of you would like to earn a dollar?" Two or three answered in the affirmative, and the gentleman, after selecting his man, gave the following orders:—"You see that lady dressed in black standing at the ship's side? Well, that is my wife. She will expect me to stand for at least twenty minutes and wave my handkerchief to her till the ship is out of sight. You understand? I am very busy, and have no time to waste; my wife is very short-sighted, so that it will do just as well if you take my place?" "And if the lady looks through a telescope?" "I have thought of that. Bury your face in your pocket handkerchief, and she will think that I am overcome by emotion." "That will cost half-a-dollar extra." "All right. Time is more valuable to me than money; only do what I tell you. You may, in case she looks through the telescope, throw in a few hand kisses at, let us say, three cents each." The merchant then thrust the money into the man's hand, and, hurriedly looking at his watch, departed.

## THE SOUTHPORT BABY FARMING CASE.

William Pearson, Elizabeth Pearson, Sarah Froggett, and Mrs. Brade (formerly Oldfield), were charged at Southport with causing the deaths of May and Rosina Oldfield and Alfred Talbot, three children who had been farmed by the Pearsons, Mrs. Brade being the mother of the two Oldfields, regarding whom the coroner's jury have returned a verdict of manslaughter against the Pearsons, and against Mrs. Brade as accessory before the fact. All three children were illegitimate, and it is alleged that the child Talbot was poisoned. In that case the jury left an open verdict, but the police informed the bench that they had further evidence. The case has been taken up by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.—All the prisoners were remanded for a week, Mrs. Brade being allowed bail.

## THE CONJUROR AND THE "TATER" MAN.

At the Marlborough-street Police Court, Alfred Hengler, a conjuror, from Evelyn-street, Deptford, was brought up for being drunk and disorderly in the Charing Cross-road about half-past eight o'clock on the previous night.—The prisoner was playing some conjuring tricks with a baked potato man, and the latter could not understand when and how his "taters" disappeared and came back again into his can, he appealed to a crowd which had gathered round him to explain how it was done, and some rare fun was caused. The conjuror, however, became abusive when ordered away by the police, and was taken to the police station.—When asked what he had to say in explanation of his conduct, he replied, in rather dolorous tones, to the effect that he had never been in such a degraded position before, and hoped he would be dealt with as leniently as possible.—The Magistrate: You have been kept under lock and key all night, I see. Pay 5s.

## THE ATTEMPTED MAIL-BAG ROBBERY.

George Lutridge, 21, a coal porter, of Drummond-street, Hampstead-road, and Frederick Smith, 23, of Leicester-place, Leicester-square, were charged, on demand, at the Clerkenwell Police Court, with being concerned with a man not in custody with assaulting Police-constable Lacey, 549 Y, by striking him on the head with a belt, throwing him down in the road, and with attempting to steal two bags of letters, the property of the Postmaster-general, at Crowndale-road, Somers Town.—The complainant, who was acting as an auxiliary postman, was attacked by the two prisoners and another man on the evening of December 23rd, while proceeding along Crowndale-road with two bags of letters. Lutridge butted him in the stomach with his head, knocking him to the ground, whilst the other two men snatched away the bags. The officer managed to regain possession of the bags, but while he was attempting to secure one of the men Lutridge beat him about the head with the buckle end of a strap. He called loudly for police, and Sergeant Hellaby, who happened to be passing in plain clothes, came to his assistance, and the two prisoners were taken into custody, the third man escaping. The bags contained over 100 letters.—Police-sergeant Hellaby said from inquiries he had made he ascertained that the prisoner, "Smith," had given a false name and address. As a matter of fact, he was a brother to Lutridge.—Mr. Horace Smith committed the prisoners for trial.

## ATTACKED BY A WOLF.

Owing to the unusually heavy snowfalls in Galicia the wolves have become very dangerous in the more isolated regions, and even attack the peasants' huts. In a village near the Russian frontier a boy, aged 5, had a merciful escape from one of these ferocious animals. In the absence of the child's parents a wolf entered the cottage and pounced upon the boy. The house-dog immediately flew at the wolf, who at once let go his grip and set about tearing the dog to pieces, when a bullet from the gun of a forester, who had been attracted to the house by the cries for help, put an end to the beast. The child was discovered in an unconscious state on the floor. On recovering, he said that the wolf had for some time tried to gain admittance by throwing itself against the door, and had at last succeeded in opening it.

DRESSMAKING.—A lady writing on dressmaking says: "I am now my own dressmaker, thanks to the Dressmaking Book, 'How to Make a Dress,' published by Mrs. G. C. Horner, 1890. And 'Mrs. Leach's Children's Dressmaking,' which contains illustrations for girls and young ladies of all ages, with full patterns, and full directions for making Plain and Fashionable dresses, and Mosaic, Price One Penny. All newagents. The two books, post free, four stamps. Mrs. Leach, 2, Johnson's-court, Fleetstreet, London, E.C."

and Mr. Burns the contest promises to be close. They say that they have no special quarrel with the Conservative party, and don't want to be disagreeable unless they are compelled. Of Mr. Burns's share in the great dockers' strike it is unnecessary to speak here. Everybody knows all about it. And whether we agree or disagree with the object of the strike or its methods, we must all admit that it was most skilfully managed from the workmen's point of view. Of Mr. Burns's work on the London County Council, little is known, as it is not done out of the sight of the public eye. I ought to add that when Mr. Weston retired the Battersea Liberals and Radicals convened a public meeting, and invited Mr. Burns to address them. Mr. Burns did so, announcing himself as an independent workman's candidate. At the close of Mr. Burns's address, it was suggested that a resolution should be passed formally adopting him as the Liberal and Radical candidate, but Mr. Burns himself promptly interposed a vote on the proposal, informing them that they might pass a resolution of approval of his candidature if they liked, but that he could not submit to being adopted by them as their candidate. He retained his independence and his right to vote for whatever party or what-over measures he thought best in the interest of the workers. It was a bitter pill, and the Battersea Liberals and Radicals made a wry face in swallowing it. But they knew they could not help themselves, and so, putting the best face they could on the business, they cheerfully adopted a resolution in the sense Mr. Burns had indicated. The Conservatives, of course, had no reason to back out. Their principles are as light to darkness compared with those possessed by Mr. Burns, and he could never represent them in Parliament, try as he might.

## JACK ALLROUND.

I am requested by "James T." to tell him how to prepare a good waterproof dressing, and how to apply it to boots. I have also received a letter from "A Labourer," who unfortunately leaves out some words at the end, but I gather from it that he, too, wishes to waterproof boots. To one pound of black resin add half a pound of tallow and one quart of train oil or crude cod oil. Mix them together in a pipkin and boil carefully to a proper consistency. Thoroughly warm the boots to be operated upon, and while the dressing is still warm apply it with a painter's brush until the boots will soak in no more. If I am told that if you polish the boots well before applying the above they will afterwards take the polish very well.

In reply to "Adela H." there are various ways of making what is called "French mustard," but whether the recipe I give is what my correspondent alludes to under that name I cannot say. To one pint of brown mustard seed add about half a handful each of parsnip, turnip, horseradish, and celeri; half a teaspoonful of mace, garlic, cloves, celery seed and salt, mix all the ingredients in a bowl, and just enough wine vinegar to cover them. Allow them to steep for twenty-four hours, and then pound the whole mass together, and add a fine sieve, adding vinegar sufficient to make the mustard of proper consistency, then put it in jars

in three minutes slide the paper off, then draw the string across the picture to remove the sum, or a network of cords will show in a day or two. When dry varnish the picture only, the black looks better than the varnish.

## ACTION BY MR. STANLEY AGAINST TIPOO TIB.

## \$10,000 Damages Claimed.

Mr. W. B. Cracknell, judge of the Consular Court at Zanzibar, has heard the evidence of Mr. Stanley and Mr. Renny in the case of the East African Relief Exhibition v. Tippo Tib. It showed that the latter broke his contract with the expedition with a view to obtaining all the stores and ammunition belonging to it. The witness also decided that Tippo Tib, nephew of Salim Mohamed, punished by death the natives who were destroyed of bringing food to the expedition, and prevented the Zanzibaris from meeting those who were bringing them sustenance, thus causing a high rate of mortality among Mr. Stanley's followers. It was further shown that in June, 1888, Tippo Tib provided 450 Maasayens, his ultimate object being to desert Mr. Stanley. The expedition claims \$10,000, and Tippo Tib's agent, Charlie, has been forbidden to part with that amount belonging to Tippo.

## OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

"Free Trade in Capital," by Messrs. A. Egmont and O. E. Westall, will not strike superficial folks as quite in keeping with the winter holiday season. But the publishers, Messrs. Bemington, were well advised to bring out the work at a time when public thought is largely taken up with the great labour question. It is a book that all political economists should study. "Line upon Line." That many will dispute its conclusion is certain, but they cannot fail to recognise the great ability and scrupulous fairness with which the theme of "Free Trade in Capital" is treated. The more of such argumentation that we have, the better. Large as is the volume of our trade, its expansion does not keep pace either with the augmentation of our population or with the commercial improvement of several foreign nations. Plainly, there must be a little somewhere, and whether the remainder lie in bi-metalism, or in the freedom of capital, or in the modifications of our hide-bound system of free trade, John Bull must find it out. Let us hope that his mind may be made up to take an outside seat.—Among the pleasures of the new year the appearance of a new issue of "The Constitution Handbook," may be reckoned by politicians. There is no work of the sort published which gives the same amount of valuable information. Armed with it, the Conservative elector can supply himself with all manner of hard facts wherewith to pelt the Radical fuddlers. Its dissemination among working men could not fail to effect an enormous amount of good.

## TOM'S NEW YEAR'S GIFT.

Two was only a little kitchen, with a cheerful lamp and fire. And a gentle-looking woman sitting by. Two was a picture, one would think, of which a man could never tire. Only a simple picture; yet how pleasant to the eye.

Such a trim and tidy woman, and a home so clean and neat.

Should surely tempt a man at home to stay;

Yet she waited for her husband, whose unsteady, halting feet

Would tell he was coming with his senses gone away.

Tom and Nellie Lane were happy once, for Tom was like a lover,

And the plants, love and concord, lit their horizon of life;

But the dark eclipses came swiftly, scarce three happy years few over.

When to Nellie came the knowledge that she was a drunkard's wife.

With the drunkard went the husband—with the husband went the man;

All their "household gods" went after—all Nellie's little store.

Yet she bore it, hoping, trusting, as only women can.

Yet no change came for the better; Tom worked less and drank the more.

And to-night was Nellie thinking, "New Year's Day is drawing near."

How happy once we used to be upon the New Year's brink!

When we planned a brighter future, which holds nothing now but fear.

There was naught on earth I wished for before Tom took to drink."

But was that her husband coming, that footstep that she heard?

A step she had not known for years—the same old manly tread.

She started up to meet him, but could not speak a word.

When he came in pale, but sober, and in his old voice said:

"Here's a New Year's present, Nellie" (in his eyes a new light dawned)—

"Twas a small square paper parcel—"You'll like it, wife, I know;

But you must not open it, not until New Year's morning.

Then I'll open it—you should have had this present long ago.

"I've been thinking deeply, Nellie, for I've heard a few words spoken

At a meeting, which have told me how I've fallen before men;

And I thought of all you've suffered, and my heart was almost broken,

But wait till New Year's morning, you'll know all that I mean then."

Nellie rose upon that morning, did her work, and sang the while;

"Twas like the happy time gone by, when Tom and she were lovers.

And she took the paper package, with a mingled tear and smile

To Tom—they stood together while he took off the covers.

Within a bright gilt frame she read the joyous words,

"I'll never touch intoxicating drink again!"

And in her heart these same words like singing birds,

For it bore her husband's signature, "Tom Lane."

He had signed the pledge; they hung it high up upon the wall.

"I'll begin the bright New Year," he said,

persons of the establishment had taken some pains to avoid. Round a solid, old-fashioned table in the centre of this apartment sat Ezra's staff of assistants, the person thoughtful, but self-satisfied, the others dull and inquisitive. Farintosh had convened the meeting, and his comrades had an idea that there was something in the wind. They applied themselves steadily, therefore, to the bottle of Hollands upon the table, and waited for him to speak.

"Well," the ex-clergyman said at last, "the game is nearly over, and we'll not be wanted any more." Girdlestone's off to England in a day or two."

Burt and Williams groaned sympathetically. Work was scarce in the diggings during the crisis, and their agencies had been paying them well.

"Yes, he's off," Farintosh went on, glancing keenly at his companions, "and he takes with him five and thirty thousand pounds worth of diamonds that we bought for him. Poor devils like us, Burt, have to do the work, and then are thrown aside as you would throw your pick aside when you are done with it. When he sells out in London and makes his pile, it won't much matter to him that the three men who helped him are starving in Grigualand."

"Won't he give us somethin' at partin'?" asked Burt, the navy. He was a savage-looking hairy man, with a brick-coloured face and over-hanging eyebrows. "Won't he give us nothing to remember him by?"

"Give you somethin'!" Farintosh said with a sneer. "Why, man, he says you are too well paid already."

"Does he, though?" cried the navy, flushing even redder than nature had made him? "Is that the way he speaks after we makes him? It ain't on the square. I likes to see things honest an' above board betwixt man an' man, and this pitchin' of them as has been doin' me over ain't that."

Farintosh lowered his voice and bent further over the table. His companions involuntarily imitated his movement, until the three cunning, cruel faces were looking closely into one another's eyes.

"Nobody knows that he holds those stones," said Farintosh. "He's too smart to let it out to any one but ourselves."

"Where does he keep 'em?" asked the Welshman.

"In a safe in his room."

"Where is the key?"

"On his watch-chain."

"Could we get an impression?"

"I have one."

"Then I can make one," cried William triumphantly.

"It's done," said Farintosh, taking a small key from his pocket. "This is a duplicate, and will open the safe. I took the moulding from his key when I was speaking to him."

The navy laughed hoarsely. "If that don't lick creation for smartness!" he cried. "And how are we to get to this safe? It would serve him right if we collar the lot. It'll teach him that if he ain't honest by nature he's got to be when he deals with the like of us. I like straightforward, and, by the Lord, I'll have it!" He brought his great fist down upon the table to emphasise this commendable sentiment.

"It's not an easy matter," Farintosh said thoughtfully. "When he goes out he looks his door and there's no getting in at the window. There's only one chance for us that I can see. His room is a bit cut off from the rest of the hotel. There's a gallery of twenty feet or more that leads to it. Now, I was thinking that if the three of us were to visit him some evening, just to wish him luck on his journey, as it were, and if, while we were in the room something sudden was to happen which would knock him silly for a minute or two, we might walk off with the stones and be clean gone before he could raise an alarm."

"And what would knock him silly?" asked Williams. He was an unhealthy, ascorbic-looking youth, and his pallid complexion had assumed a greenish tinge of fear as he listened to the ex-clergyman's words. He had the makings in him of a mean and dangerous criminal, but not of a violent one—belonging to the jackal tribe rather than to the tiger.

"What would knock him senseless?" Farintosh asked Burt with a knowing look.

Burt laughed again in his bushy, red beard. "You can leave that to me, mate," he said.

Williams glanced from one to the other and he became even more cadaverous. "I'm not in it," he stammered. "It will be a hanging job. You will kill him as like as not."

"Not in it, ain't ye?" growled the navy. "Why, you white-livered hound, you're too deep in it ever to get out again. D'y'e think we'll let you spoil a lay of this sort as we might never get a chance of again?"

"You can do it without me," said the Welshman, trembling in every limb.

"And have you turnis' on us the moment a reward was offered. No, no, chumby, you don't get out of it that way. If you won't stand by us, I'll take care you don't split."

"Think of the diamonds," Farintosh put in.

"Think of your own skin," said the navy.

"You could go back to England a rich man if you do it."

"You'll never go back at all if you don't."

This worked upon alternately by his hopes and by his fears, Williams showed some signs of yielding. He took a long draught from his glass and filled it up again. "I ain't afraid," he said. "Don't imagine that I am afraid. You won't hit him very hard, Mr. Burt."

"Just enough to curl him up," the navy answered. "Lord love ye, it ain't the first man by many a one that I've laid on his back, though I never had the chance before of fingering five and thirty thousand pounds worth of diamonds for my pains."

"But the hotel-keeper and the servants?"

"That's all right," said Farintosh. "You leave it to me. If we go up quietly and openly, and come down quietly and openly, who is to suspect anything. Our horses will be outside and we'll be out of their reach in no time. Shall we say to-morrow evening for the job?"

"That's very early," Williams cried tremulously.

"The sooner the better," Burt said with an oath. "And look here, young man," fixing Williams with his bloodshot eyes, "one sign of drawing back, and by the living Jingo! I'll let you have more than I'm keeping for him. You hear me, eh?" He grasped the youth's wrists and squeezed it in his iron grip until he writhed with the pain.

"Oh, I'm with you, heart and soul," he cried. "I'm sure what you and Mr. Farintosh advise must be for the best."

"Meet here at eight o'clock to-morrow night then," said the leader. "We can get it over by nine, and we will have the night for our escape. I'll have the horses ready, and it will be strange if we don't get such a start as will puzzle them."

So having arranged all the details of their little plan, these three gentlemen departed in different directions, Farintosh to the Oriental Hotel to give Ezra his evening report, and the others to the mining camp, which were the scene of their labours.

The meeting just described took place upon a Tuesday, early in November. On the Saturday Ezra Girdlestone had fully made up his mind to turn his back upon the diggings and begin his homeward journey. He was pining for the pleasures of his old London life, and was weary of the perpetual glare of the South African sun. His task was done, too, and it would be well for him to be at a distance before the diggers discovered the manner in which they had been hoaxed. He began to pack his boxes, therefore, and to make every preparation for his departure.

He was busily engaged in this employment upon the Wednesday evening when there was a tap at the door and Farintosh walked in, accompanied by Burt and Williams. Girdlestone glanced up at them, and greeted them briefly. He was not surprised at their visit, for they had come together several

times before to report progress or make arrangements. Farintosh bowed as he entered the room, Burt nodded, and Williams rubbed his hands together and looked amiably bilious.

"We looked in on Mr. Girdlestone," Farintosh began.

"I told you before that I had not," Ezra said curiously. "I am going on Saturday. I have made a mistake in speculating on those diamonds. Prices are sinking lower and lower."

"I am sorry to hear that," said Farintosh, sympathetically. "May be the market will take a turn."

"Let us hope so," the merchant answered. "It doesn't look like it."

"But you are satisfied with us, gav'nor," Burt struck in, pushing his bulky form in front of Farintosh. "We have done our work all right, haven't we?"

"I have nothing to complain of," Ezra said coldly.

"Well then, gav'nor, you surely ain't going away without leaving us nothing to remember you with, seeing that we've stood by you and never gone back on you."

"You have been paid every week for what you have done," the young man said. "You won't get another penny out of me, so you set your mind at rest about that."

"You won't give us nothing?" cried the navy angrily.

"No, I won't; and I'll tell you what it is, Burt, big as you are, if you dare to raise your voice in my presence I'll give you the soundest hiding that ever you had in your life."

Ezra had stood up and showed every indication of being as good as his word.

"Don't let us quarrel the last time we may meet," Farintosh cried, intervening between the two. "It is not money we expect from you. All we want is a drain of rum to drink success to you with."

"Oh, if that's all!"—said the young merchant, and turned round to pick up the bottle which stood on a table behind him. Quick as a flash Burt sprang upon him and struck him down with a life-preserver. With a gasping cry and a yell Ezra fell face downwards upon the floor, the bottle still clutched in his senseless hand, and the escaping rum forming a horrible mixture with the blood which streamed from a great gash in his head.

For the first few miles the party galloped in silence. The moon was still shining brilliantly, and they could see the white line of the road stretching out in front of them and winding away over the undulating veldt. To right and left spread a broad expanse of wiry grass stretching to the horizon, with low bushes and scrub scattered over it in patches. Here and there were groups of long-legged, unhealthily-looking sheep, who crashed through the bushes in wild terror as the riders swept by them. Their plaintive calls were the only sounds which broke the silence of the night, save the occasional dismal hooting of the veldt owl.

Ezra, on his powerful grey, had been riding somewhat ahead of the troopers, but the sergeant managed to get abreast of him. "Be patient, sir," he said, raising his hand to his cap, "but don't you think this pace is too good to last? The horses will be blown."

"A long as we catch them," Ezra answered. "I don't care what becomes of the horses. I would sooner stand you dozen horses apiece than let them get away." The young merchant's words were firm and his seat steady in spite of the throbbing at his head. The fury in his heart supplied him with strength, and he gnawed his moustache in his impatience and dug his spurs into his horse's flanks until the blood trickled down his glossy coat. Fortune, reputation, above all, revenge, all depended upon the issue of this headlong chase through the darkness.

The sergeant and Ezra galloped along, leather to leather, and rain to rain, while the troop clattered in their rear. "There's a house about two miles further on," said the sergeant; "we will hear news of them there."

"They can't get off the high road, can they?"

"Not likely, sir. They couldn't get along as fast anywhere else. Indeed, it's hardly safe riding upon the veldt. They might be down a pit before they knew it."

"As long as they are on the road, we must catch them," quoth Ezra, "for it ran straight from here to hell I would follow them there."

"And we'd stand by you, sir," said the sergeant, catching something of his companion's enthusiasm. "At this pace, if the horses hold out, we might catch them at Jacobsdal. There are the lights of the shanty."

As he spoke they were galloping round a long curve in the road, at the further end of which there was a feeble yellow glimmer. As they came abreast of it they saw that the light came through an open door in the centre of which a burly Africander was standing with his hands in his breeches pockets and his pipe in his mouth.

"Good evening," said the sergeant, as his men pulled up their reeking horses. "Has any one passed this way before us?"

"Many a taunton has passed this way before you," said the Dutchman, taking his pipe out of his mouth to laugh.

"To-night, man, to-night!" the sergeant cried angrily.

"Oh yes, there is a party passed this way not one hour ago. Three men riding fit to kill their horses."

"That'll do," Ezra shouted, and away they went once more down the broad white road. They passed Harrison's Bridge at one in the morning, and were at Van Hayden's farm at 1:30. At two they had passed the Lens stream where it runs down to join the Vaal, and at 2:15 they swept down the main street of the little township of Jacobsdal, their horses weak and weary and all mottled with foam. There was a police patrol in the street.

"Has any one passed?" cried the sergeant.

"Three men a quarter of an hour ago."

"Have they gone on?"

"Straight on. Their horses were nearly dead beat, though."

"Come on," cried Ezra eagerly. "Come on."

"Four of the horses are exhausted, sir," said the sergeant. "They can't move another step."

"Come on without them then."

"The patrol could come," the sergeant suggested.

"I should have to report myself at the office, sir," said the trooper.

"Jump on to his horse, sergeant," cried Ezra.

"He can take yours to report himself on. Now then you and I at least are bound to come up with them. Forward! gallop!" and they started off once more on their wild career, rousing the quiet burgess of Jacobsdal by the wild tumult of their horses.

Out once more upon the Capetown road it was a clear race between the pursuers and the pursued. The former knew that the fugitives, were it day-time, would possibly be within sight of them, and the thought gave them additional ardour.

The sergeant having a fresh horse rode in front, his head down and his body forward, getting every possible inch of pace out of the animal. At his heels came Ezra, on his gallant grey, the blood-stained handkerchief fluttering from his head. He was sitting very straight in his saddle with a set stern smile upon his lips. In his right hand he held a cocked revolver. A hundred yards or so behind them the two remaining troopers came toiling along upon their weary nags working hard with whip and spur to stimulate them to further exertions. Away in the east a long rosy streak lay low upon the horizon, which showed that dawn was approaching, and a grey light stole over the landscape. Suddenly the sergeant pulled his horse up. "There's some one coming towards us," he cried.

Ezra and the troopers halted their panting steeds. Through the uncertain light they saw a solitary horseman riding down the road. At first they had thought that it might possibly be one of the fugitives who had turned, but as he came nearer they perceived that it was a stranger. His clothes were so dusty and his horse so foaled-decked and weary that it was evident that he had been riding hard.

"Have you seen three men on horseback?" cried Ezra, as he approached.

"Fit or not, I am going," Ezra said resolutely.

"If I have to be strapped to my horse I'll go. Send me up some brandy. Put some in a flask, too. I may feel faint before I get back."

A great concourse of people had assembled by this time, attracted by the report of the robbery. The whole square in front of the hotel was crowded with diggers and storekeepers and innumerable Kaffirs, all pressing up to the portico in the hope of hearing some fresh details. Mr. Hector O'Flaherty, over the way, was already busy setting up his type in preparation for a special edition, in which the *Vaal River Advertiser* should give its version of the affair. In the office the great man himself, who was just convalescing from an attack of ardent spirits, was busily engaged with a wet towel and his head writing a leader upon the event. This production, which was very sonorous and effective, was peppered all over with such phrases as "protection of property," "outraged majesty of the law," and "scum of civilisation"—expressions which had been used so continuously by Mr. O'Flaherty, that

he had come to think that he had a copyright to them, and loudly accused the London papers of plagiarism if he happened to see them in their columns.

There was a buzz of excitement among the crowd when Ezra appeared on the steps of the hotel, looking as white as a sheet, with a handkerchief bound round his head and his collar all crusted with blood. As he mounted his horse one of his emissaries rushed to him.

"If you please, sir," he said, "they have taken the Capetown road. A dozen people saw them. Their horses were not up to much, for I know the man they got them from. You are sure to catch them."

A smile played over Ezra's pale face, which had little good for the fugitives.

"Curse those police," he cried, "are they never going to come?"

"Here they are," said the landlord, and sure enough, with a jingling of arms and a clatter of hoofs, half a dozen of the Cape Mounted Police trotted through the crowd and drew up in front of the steps. They were smart, active young fellows, armed with carbine and sabre, and their horses were true brutes, uncomely to look at, but with wonderful staying power. Ezra noted the fact with satisfaction as he rode up to the grizzled sergeant in command.

"Let us hope so," the merchant answered.

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"We have done our work all right, haven't we?"

"I have nothing to complain of," Ezra said coldly.

"Well then, gav'nor, you surely ain't going away without leaving us nothing to remember you with."

"I am sorry to hear that," said Farintosh, sympathetically. "May be the market will take a turn."

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"Well then, gav'nor, you surely ain't going away without leaving us nothing to remember you with."

"I am sorry

## OUR OMNIBUS.

## THE M.P.

Reporting the sensational divorce case, "She v. O'Shea and Farnell," one word may be said without prejudice to either party. It is to leprocate everything in the shape of press and platform comment until the trial is ended and judgment is pronounced. No one can say that this caution is unnecessary after the scandalous methods employed by Separatist writers and speakers to discount beforehand the judgment of the special commission. Even the accused themselves have considered it within the bounds of propriety to go shouting about the country that the whole case against them broke down with the Pigott letters. It did not, and they know it. There would have been a strong prima facie case against them even if the Times had turned a deaf ear to the infamous perjurer.

Although it is rather late in the day, I tender to Mr. Gladstone my sincere congratulations and good wishes on the completion of his eightieth year. We are all proud of him in the House— even we to whom his political principles are anathema. And is there any Englishman who is not proud of the brave old warrior, still fighting as hard, if not with the same skill, as he did half a century ago? Long may he live to fight, even though it be for a hopelessly rotten cause.

The Parnellites are never tired of protesting their love and veneration for the Queen and their loyalty to the Crown. Methinks, they do protest too much. It would be pleasant, by way of a change, were they to demonstrate their loyalty by acts instead of by words. At the farewell banquet given by the Lord Mayor of Dublin—a Home Ruler, of course—the health of the Queen was received in dead silence by the majority of the guests, while not a few refused to rise from their seats. Parnellite loyalty evidently needs the prefix "dis" to convey its true meaning.

Being such a good and great man, Sir William Harcourt naturally received a number of presents during Christmastide. Among others was a heavy package, which so excited his suspicions—he has not yet quite got over his dynamite tremors—that he sent it away to be opened in the stable. The contents proved to be a fine obese plum pudding, with his own speaking countenance modelled on one side, including the triple chin and dewlap. The insulting gift was, of course, given to the poor.

It seems to me very doubtful whether any Government would care to raise the question whether a combination of trade unions amounts to a conspiracy within the meaning of the statute book. Not being learned in the law, I offer no opinion on the legal aspect of the question, but, looking at it from a political standpoint, employers would be foolish, I think, to place any trust on Ministerial action. Every Government is under compulsion to have regard for its own existence, and I doubt whether that would be of long continuance if the working classes believed an effort was being made to prevent labour organisations from getting alien.

The Indian National Congress of 1889 has come and gone, leaving behind it a legacy of nonsense and claptrap. Mr. Bradlaugh orated, Sir William Wedderburn blustered, and numberless black gentlemen spouted to their hearts' content. And then the mighty assembly faded away into its original nothingness, and the "great heart of India" again took to regular pulsations. Perhaps the most amusing feature of the whole ridiculous affair is that the natives evidently regarded Mr. Bradlaugh and Sir William Wedderburn as persons of immense weight in England. It is said that the former was repeatedly addressed as "your grace," and the latter as "my lord," the native conviction being that they must be very high up in the British peerage.

The jubilee of the penny post will be celebrated with befitting honours on the 15th inst., and also later on. Let us hope that the postal authorities and the public between them will adopt some means to gladden the hearts of the postmen. True, they have just received their Christmas boxes, but I feel sure they would not object to a repetition of that agreeable process; or, better still, because of its more permanent character, would be a jubilee subscription to augment the pension fund which was established a couple of years back.

A strange story comes to me from a source which I have generally found trustworthy. It runs to the effect that the main object of Mr. Parnell's recent visit to Hawarden was not, as has been given out, to consult about Separatist tactics next session, but to ask Mr. Gladstone whether the O'Sheas complication did not render it expedient to appoint a locum tenens to the Irish leadership until after the trial. Mr. Parnell was strongly counselled not to dream of such a thing, his adviser declaring that it would surely be misinterpreted by the public in a very injurious way.

A jolly squire with whom I was dining the other night expressed a belief, as we sat over the walnuts and the wine, that M.P.'s must find the latter part of the recess very wearisome. "I can imagine you're being very glad to get away from St. Stephen's after six months' work," he went on; "but even schoolboys get bored when holidays are unduly prolonged." Well, I cannot say that my own feelings run in that direction, or that I should feel deeply grieved were the recess prolonged until Easter. For legitimate business I have plenty of liking, but it exhausts one's philosophy to have to listen, week after week and month after month, to windy verbiage and Hibernian rowdiness. To my mind, a model Parliament would be one in which only two speeches from either side were allowed on any bill or motion, and where questioning was done in writing beforehand. That would abridge proceedings considerably.

## OLD IZAAK.

Mr. C. H. Cook, one of the speakers at the Fly Fishers' annual dinner, writes to me as follows: "I did not know that there were more fish in the river than ever. I said more trout. It would be unreasonable to suppose that while we take out so many coarse fish, and, comparatively, put so few in, that fish generally would increase. But trout have increased, the simple reason being that for every trout caught ten or more are added to the river. However, there is a very great number of coarse fish in the river, now, and the Upper Thames angling preservation association. In years to come, perhaps, coarse fish will be culminated on a really large scale, and I hope to live to see the day when I may truthfully make the statement which the poor hen put into my mouth."

Previous to the rise and discolouration of the Thames's pike, roach, and dace were beginning to feed, some of the anglers fishing the upper waters getting a few really decent pike. Mr. Newbury, fishing with J. Keen, Jun., of Staines, has taken a fine roach, weighing nearly 2lb., another day with Mr. Waterer, three dozen roach and a pike of 10lb.; and another day, with two anglers, five dozen fine roach. At Sunbury, Mr. Morgan, fishing with Herbert, has captured five brace of small pike, the largest fish nearly 3lb. At Kingston, John Johnson has been getting some nice roach and dace. In the tidal waters the fishing has been principally confined to raking for dace, with the exception of J. Spow, who has been getting a few fine bream and roach at Twickenham.

The dinner to the river-keepers of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, Thames Conservancy, and others associated with them in the protection of the river below the City Stone at Staines, will take place at the Castle Hotel, Hampton Court, on Friday evening, January 24th. Mr. A. Nuttall, J.P., treasurer, will preside. During a conversation I had with Mr. Brougham, the secretary of the T.A.P.S., who has always got up these re-unions, he informed me that with only half a dozen exceptions out of over eighty members, the amount was all made up.

It is amusing to read the enthusiastic praise given by provincial journals in France, Belgium,

members of the society, and although the result of the appeal has scarcely realized the amount asked for, it is to be hoped the outside angling public will show some small interest in the men who assist in protecting their favourite amusement.

I hear that an angler's fly and half-casting tournament is to be held on the Lakes of Killarney on a very extensive scale, to commence on Easter Monday, 7th April, and which will be carried out by the Kerry Fish Preservation Association. A number of good prizes have already been promised. Moyers, Dunville and Co. having promised a ten-gallon cask of their best whisky. An effort is to be made to get his excellency the Vicaroy to be present and open the tournament.

The steam trawler St. Giles, Captain Morgan, while trawling off the Aberdeenshire coast, captured a large shark, which had got entangled in the gear. It was over seventeen feet long, and was sold for £12. for manure.

My correspondent, "Young Isaak," wishes to know the difference between the perch and the pike. I take it for granted that as he is a member of an angling club he must know what a perch is like. But a good many men who have been fishing for never saw a pike; I will therefore do my best to describe it. The pike is very like a small perch, but with a curiously formed single dorsal fin; the colour of the back is a dusky olive green, the sides light brownish green, and small brown spots are spread over the dorsal fin, the back, and tail. The pectoral, ventral, and anal fins are pale brown. This fish rarely exceeds six inches in length; its habits and haunts are like those of the perch, and it feeds on small fry and worms. Great numbers of these fish used to be caught from above Teddington Lock to the mouth of the Mole.

## PIPER PAN.

I congratulate Dr. Frederick Bridge on his production of a work worthy of a distinguished place in Church of England services. I allude to the anthem, "He giveth His beloved sleep," performed for the first time at the burial of Robert Browning in Westminster Abbey on Tuesday last. Composed within the brief space of two days, it shows no trace of hurry, but is a veritable inspiration, the spirit of the beautiful poem by the late Elizabeth Barrett Browning having been illustrated by the composer in music, which is varied according to the themes successively presented, and full of sympathetic melody, simply but delightfully harmonised.

The repetition at the end of each of the three verses of the refrain, "He giveth His beloved sleep," sung pianissimo, is very touching, reminding me of the sublime effect produced at the funeral of Sterndale Bennett by his exquisite unaccompanied quartette, "God is a Spirit," which filled many eyes with tears. Mrs. Barrett Browning's verses are well suited to association with music, and are worthy of the distinguished poetess whose remains I hope to see placed with those of the great poet, her husband; but I must frankly say that I cannot pretend to admire the line, "The poet's star-tuned harp." I can excuse the defective prosody of the second and third words, but a "star-tuned harp" is surely absurd.

Dr. Frederick Bridge, in his cantata, "Calliope," and in other works, has shown strong dramatic instincts, and it would not surprise me were he to compose the music of a grand opera. Why should he not, although organist of Westminster Abbey? "Dido and Aeneas," the first English opera ever produced on the stage of a theatre, was composed by Henry Purcell, the greatest composer of anthems, church services, and other ecclesiastical music that England has, up to this time, produced.

On several occasions I have had the pleasure of meeting the late Mr. Browning in a leading morning paper concerning the cruelty of clergymen and churchwardens would look a little more closely after the ventilating and heating arrangements of their churches, they would soon see a sensible increase in the number of masculine worshippers. On Christmas morning I attended the church where we have sittings in company with all my family. There was a tremendous draught blowing right up the centre aisle, and within a few hours my unfortunate back was tortured with rheumatism and lumbago, while two of my sons were prostrated with feverish colds. Then congection of the liver set up in all three cases, and a right dismal time we had of it during the festive season. Nor is this an isolated instance; I hear the same story every winter from friends who attend other churches. Women can afford to run the risk of getting laid up, but with breadwinners the case is different, and I make little doubt that numbers of men stay away from church simply and solely because they are afraid of having their business occupations brought to a standstill.

There is no reason whatever why dragoons

should not be excluded from churches as elsewhere as they are from theatres and music halls.

Even Mr. Irving would soon play to a beggarly army of empty benches if the Lyceum were a cavern of the winds during winter. I believe that one reason for the difference is the objection felt by many clergymen to have the outer doors shut during divine service, lest they should seem to be excluding tardy sinners. A praiseworthy sentiment in its way; but for my own part I very strongly object to being frozen alive because a few sluggishards like to cut it fine on Sunday mornings.

The sad death of the ex-Empress of Brazil may have been immediately due to heart complaint, but there cannot be the slightest doubt that the fatal ending of the disease was hastened by the burning indignation she must have felt at the treatment accorded to her and her husband by the revolutionaries. The illustrious pair had devoted themselves, heart and soul, throughout their lives, to the welfare of Brazil, but their only reward was to be sent adrift with less care than many a householder would observe in discharging a servant. Even with her dying breath the ill-fated lady exclaimed, "Beautiful Brazil! They will not let me return!"

Owing to the threatened strike of the Gaslight and Coke Company's men, gas and candle-sellers have been doing splendid business. One of these traders assured me that his shop had never done so well. "They just came in crowds, sir, last week," he said, rubbing his hands, "and they would buy anything, no matter how old-fashioned."

It would really be well, before going any further with the electric lighting of London, to have an official inquiry into the very numerous and very horrible accidents which have lately occurred in the United States. The averment goes that when high tension or low tension is used, and no matter how skilfully the wires may be insulated, the electric fluid contrives to get through and shod fatal shocks around. But it is quite possible that these tragic tales are concocted in the interests of the American gas companies, which have suffered heavy losses through the rapid advance of the electric light in public favour.

Mr. Livesey must have suspected that the gas strikers were in league with the powers of darkness when King Foo swooped down upon the metropolis and exercised his relentless sway day after day. I doubt whether the funeral pall which overhung London last Monday was ever beaten for absolute opacity. Not the faintest indication of light broke the gloomy arch overhead for several hours; it was as though the mighty city had been bodily thrust down into the bowels of the earth. But it is an ill wind that blows good to none; the gas strikers, I am told, seemed to mightily relish the darkness, predicting that it would bring old Livesey to his senses if it only lasted another fortnight.

Suppose they flatly disagree on certain points, as male critics so often do, what will the collaborators do then? Will they be silent on those points, or attempt a compromise? or will they settle between themselves which shall "do" the whole "notice?" As a matter of fact, dramatic critics have often been largely assisted by their wives, whose views they have put into their own language, with such mitigation or heightening as their experience suggested. Some ladies I know are excellent judges of a play. Nay, are there not professional lady critics?

The event of the week, in theatrical circles, has been the death of Mr. Frank Marshall, which, however, did not come as a surprise to those within the "inner circle." It was known that he was suffering from jaundice, and that he had had a relapse, that Mrs. Marshall (Miss Ada Cavendish) was very anxious, and that at least one of his intimate friends was visiting him daily. All this betokened danger, and consequently the news of his decease did not come to his acquaintances with the shock it would otherwise have given.

If Marshall's more ambitious stage work, I suppose "False Shame" and "Brighton" (the latter was really only an adaptation) are the only ones that will survive, and these have not been seen for a long time. "False Shame" was first performed in 1872, the locale being the Globe Theatre, and the chief artists being Harry Montague, Rose Massey, Miss Charlotte Addison, Miss Sophie Larkum, Mr. E. W. Garden, and Mr. John Bulstrode. In America Clara Morris played the heroine. Everybody remembers Mr. Wyndham in "Brighton." Of Marshall's other pieces, the best known was "Cora," written in collaboration with Mr. W. G. Wills.

Another well-known figure has vanished from stage precincts—I refer to that of Mr. H. P. Grattan, who, I am surprised to see, was in his

and Italy to artists who hold third-rate positions here. The "Progrès du Nord," published at Lille, speaks thus of Molla Gambogi, who sang in England with but moderate success last season and the preceding season. "She is a great artist!" an artist whose performance is the expression of her nature and her temperament." This is almost unavoidable, the case with all vocalists.

## BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

At the beginning of a new year it always seems reasonable and appropriate to put in a good word for the dumb creation. So far, the winter has been sufficiently mild to allow of town birds picking up a living for themselves. But "General January and February"—to use the Garter Nicholas's immortal phrase—stand in front of us, and will probably prove as inhospitable as previous years. I would therefore appeal to all householders, rich and poor alike, to throw out the crumb for the benefit of our little feathered friends, and also to supply them with a source of clean water every morning. The trouble is slight, the expense nil, the good effected immense, both to the birds themselves and to their benefactors as well. It is a hard, material, grasping age, and all are the better for any help to keep their kindly feelings from becoming frozen.

It would be a mark of ingratitude on my part if I did not return hearty thanks to the very numerous correspondents who, during 1889, sent me interesting bits about natural history. I hope—and my readers will, I feel assured, echo the aspiration—that they will continue their favours during the present year. Compelled as I am to live in London for the greater part of my time, it is not often in my power to visit those happy hunting grounds of the naturalist which country folks have at their disposal. May I, then, invite them to put a few lines into the post whenever they come across anything which appears to be out of the common?

An old friend, now resident in India, writes me that Prince Albert Victor's markmanship is something but first-rate. A story is told that one day, when the Prince was beating a jungle for big game on an elephant, a peacock flew across at the moment when a fine black buck broke cover. The royal sportsman aimed, of course, at the latter, but somehow or other the bullet must have hit a circumbendibulus, for the peacock fell dead, whereas the deer bounded away unscathed.

Another yarn tells how a certain native swell with whom the prince was staying always posted coolies with dead game in the jungle, at different points, before the sport began. Then, when the usual mire took place, out would rush one of these assistants and present to the royal sportsman a trophy of his uttering skill. But if my memory is not astray, that very tale used to be told years ago of another royal personage while on tour in the East.

A correspondence has recently taken place in a leading morning paper concerning the cruelty of depriving it of its coat. It seems doubtful whether, after all, the suffering inflicted is as great as it has sometimes been made out to be. Anyhow, the process now employed seems to be the only one that can be adopted under the circumstances. A great quantity of seals are suddenly come upon, the time for killing them is very short, and the hunters, therefore, do it as rapidly as possible. The pathetic, intelligent look of the seals doubtless renders them peculiarly attractive to most people, but still they are very useful, whether for fur, skin, or oil, and they must be killed. That such killing should be rendered as humane as possible is, of course, the wish of every right-minded person, but to denounce the seal hunters indiscriminately as savages is foolish.

On looking over a youngster's collection of postage stamps the other day I was much struck by the happy idea some countries have of placing on the stamp the image of some representative animal instead of the wearisome bad portraits of kings and queens or uninteresting emblems and coats-of-arms. Thus I noticed among others a duck-billed platypus on a Tasmanian stamp, a beaver on a Canadian one, while Newfoundland showed a seal, a cod fish, and one of its large dogs on various specimens. Guatemala is represented by the macaw. Western Australia has a black swan. Peru has a couple of llamas, and other countries other animals. I wish that this custom was more generally adopted on some of the stamps of each country, at all events.

It was quite recently that I had to ask correspondents not to send me the dead bodies of their pets for medical examination. I am sorry to say that my request has been disregarded, the postman bringing me a dead canary-bird. I must absolutely decline to search for the cause of its death, and again must ask my readers not to send me any more corresp.

Mr. T. Clead, of Southampton, very kindly sends a piece of a plant, veronica, on which on Christmas Day he observed two bees feasting. The weather was then very mild at Southampton, and my correspondent's garden faces westward, so that the two little insects were tempted out of their gloomy winter quarters to take their Christmas dinner, and I hope they enjoyed it.

## THE ACTOR.

There has always been a good deal of collaboration in dramatic authorship, from the days of Beaumont and Fletcher to those of Sims and Pettitt. Why should there not be collaboration in dramatic criticism? Anyhow, the experiment is going to be tried in the pages of a monthly magazine, whose issue for January contains the first results of the joint venture. The writers are man and wife, so if the time-honoured gibes be well-founded it will be rather wonderful if they continue to agree for long!

Suppose they flatly disagree on certain points, as male critics so often do, what will the collaborators do then? Will they be silent on those points, or attempt a compromise? or will they settle between themselves which shall "do" the whole "notice?" As a matter of fact, dramatic critics have often been largely assisted by their wives, whose views they have put into their own language, with such mitigation or heightening as their experience suggested. Some ladies I know are excellent judges of a play. Nay, are there not professional lady critics?

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stage precincts—I refer to that of Mr. H. P. Grattan, who, I am surprised to see, was in his

sixth year when he died. He did not look so old,

being still wonderfully slim and vivacious.

He wrote a good deal for the theatre in

his time, but scarcely anything that he produced

can be said to have survived. The most notable

of his pieces was "The Mineral," "The Fairy

Circle," and "Glory." At least two of Mr.

Grattan's children are actors, and very clever

they are.

The observed of all observers at Her Majesty's

on Wednesday afternoon were Moore, Arthur

Cecil, Corney Grain, and George Grossmith, who

occupied a private box on the prompt side.



## THE THEATRES.

## COVENT GARDEN.

Messrs. Augustus Harris and Freeman Thomas have accomplished wonders at Covent Garden, both in the way of getting together an admirable company of equestrian and variety artists, and in arranging the large auditorium in a manner calculated to furnish the maximum amount of comfort to their patrons. It is a bright and altogether excellent entertainment, full of contrast, novelty, and spectacular interest. The equestrian hall naturally served up as the scene of the programme, for it was this particular animal that caused quite a sensation in Paris during the holding of the Exhibition. It is a novelty at all events to see the monarch of the forest capering in the circus ring and jumping on and off the back of a horse as it gallops round the arena. The lion is accompanied by a remarkably intelligent and watchful boarhound, and, as by way of precaution, the feats are performed within a huge circular cage, any fear of risk or danger may be at once dismissed. For the training of the lion to such a pitch of docility and shrewdness, Herr Hagenbeck and Herr Philadelphia are deserving of much praise. Being Christmas time the management wisely decided on the production of a pantomime, and as "Cinderella" is the story which lends itself most readily to effective treatment in the ring, that subject was decided upon. Nothing has been spared that was wanted for the realistic presentation of a series of elaborate tableaux, all the incidents of the familiar story being worked out with artistic delicacy and skill, the dresses and properties used being marked by elegance and tasteful combinations of colour, and the 200 juveniles employed in the representation having been admirably trained by Madame Katti Lanner. There is the most liberal display of horses and various kinds of equipages. Not only does Cinderella drive away in a gorgeous vehicle drawn by four beautiful ponies, but all kinds of things on wheels, including a hansom cab and an omnibus, with Lord Salisbury and Mr. Gladstone on the box, bring guests to the Prince's ball. The ball scene itself is as bright as gas jets and gorgeous costumes and showy appointments can make it, and, taken altogether, the pantomime may be classed as one of those entertainments which cannot fail to delight and amuse the young folks, and the old ones, too, for the matter of that. The remainder of the programme is made up of a capital assortment of equestrian and variety talent, with a liberal admixture of genial fun. Some of the trained horses are magnificent specimens of their kind; the Sisters Hoffman have good cause to describe themselves as the champion lady horsemastership performers; the Feely Family and Signor Pasha, "the Morocco jumper," do marvels in the way of acrobatic feats; Mr. Silvester, as the Newmarket jockey, deservedly excites the enthusiasm of the audience; and Mlle. Jessica proves herself a most skillful and daring performer on the slack wire. There are also performing bears and many other features, some of them essentially novel and all of them entertaining. As a whole the Covent Garden programme is one that should retain its popularity for a considerable time to come.

**ROYAL THEATRE, STRATFORD.**  
Mr. R. Overton has written a very clever version of "Jack and the Beanstalk," in which he has introduced references to local topics and events, which have a telling and amusing effect on the audience. The overture and incidental music of Mr. F. Ferry is also good. Mrs. Merry and Mrs. Fredericks have arranged two pretty ballets, in which Miss K. Fredericks figures capably as principal dancer. The scenery is all that could be desired, and the interpretation of the story is highly creditable to the twenty individuals who take part in it. The proprietor, Mr. A. Fredericks, is to be commended on his Yuletide production.

## LONDON PAVILION.

The advent of the festive season found the directors of this popular resort prepared with a lengthy programme of attractive amusements. The most sensational item of the programme is vouchsafed by Signor Rapoli. In defiance of the ordinary laws of gravitation this performer acquires himself of a number of startling feats upon the top of a ladder twenty-five feet in height. It is a clever performance. The Brothers Horne and Miss Lydia Tyndale present a delightful sketch, in which a set-to with the gloves between a swell and a bootblack forms the principal incident; Madame Stella Lucida and La Belle Amore go through some graceful evolutions on the trapeze. Herr Wallenda introduces his highly-trained troupe of boarhounds, whose feats are as interesting as they are extraordinary; a pretty and graceful Andalusian dance is contributed by Miss Fioretto, Wilton, and Hornby; in addition to which a number of popular entertainers contribute to the programme. Among these may be mentioned Miss Bessie Bellwood, whose low comedy business is as spirited as ever. Mr. G. H. Macdermott, Mr. Charles Coborn, and Mr. G. W. Hunter, whose contributions are too familiar to need further description; Lieutenant Walter Cole, with his well-known ventriloquist act; Madame Zicarelli, Miss Marie Lloyd, Miss J. Valmore, Messrs. Revens and Athas, Stewart and Francis, the Athas Troupe, and the Larsen Troupe.

## THE MOHAWK MINSTRELS.

The new year's programme of the Mohawk Minstrels is fully up to the usual mark of excellence. A number of new sentimental songs are introduced and cleverly interpreted by the company, as are also some fresh parodies on popular old ballads. The "strong man" craze is amusingly burlesqued by Messrs. Danvers and Schofield, whose method of moving eighty-one tons of iron is a mirth-provoking one. The new pantomime sketch, "Mister Robinson Crusoe," is alone worth a visit to witness, and the variety items are all of a high class.

In respect of stage productions there is no news, nor do playgoers, indeed, look for any in the week following Christmas, when every manager has just shot his best bolt in the competition for public favour among the holiday-makers of all classes. Excepting the items here first set forth, what there is to record aentent theatres generally, at home and abroad, results from accident rather than design. The sole rumour of importance runs to the effect that to follow the splendid Christmas pantomime at Her Majesty's Theatre, the enterprising new management intend to produce at Easter a grand spectacular military drama, having for its subject the re-conquest of France by Joan of Arc; and even as the whisper is uttered comes the news from Paris that, while Madame Sara Bernhardt, at the Porte St. Martin Theatre, on Monday last, was rehearsing the final scene of this very character, and mounted on the funeral pyre, one of the bags of gas supplying the flames by some untoward chance burst and exploded, and though without any injury save a nervous shock to the great actress, yet to the sore hurt of a poor stage carpenter stationed under the bag. The "effect" so ghastly in its realism, is not new, it having been first used, in this identical scene of the sacrifice of the Maid of Orleans at the stake in Rouen market-place by Madame Bernhardt's great predecessor, Rachel, who found an imitator in England a few years later in Mrs. Boucicault, when that sometime favourite actress enacted Joan of Arc at the old Queen's Theatre in Long Acre, while under the management of Mr. Labouchere. But fire is not the only danger to be dreaded in playhouses, as proved by the extraordinary and mysterious collapse of the theatre just completed at Stratford-on-Avon, which, within a few hours of its official inspection prior to the inaugural performance, collapsed under stress of a storm of wind and rain. True, the edifice was of timber only, but the comparative lightness and slightness of woodwork is no excuse for its perilous use in a public building necessarily so large and shell-like as a theatre. It is expected that the municipal authorities of Stratford will cause a searching inquiry to be made as to the party with whom rests the responsibility for the accident.

collapse, whether it be the architect or the builder, or both.—A somewhat similar "accident" is just reported from Mexico, where, during a bull fight at Villaverde, a portion of the amphitheatre gave way, causing a hundred persons to be injured more or less seriously.—

Dure, the French dramatist, has just succumbed to the after effects upon the lungs of the insidious epidemic of influenza, or dengue fever. The deceased author wrote "Surrouf," the original of "Paul Jones," and, in collaboration with M. Chivot, he also produced "The Tambour Major," "La Mascotte," "The Great Mogul," and other operatic pieces which severally became popular in English versions.—The present Gaite's company, headed by Mr. Fred Leslie and Miss Nellie Farren, will return for a season to New York at the close of 1890.—Under the management of Mr. Harrington Bayly, the Novelty, re-named the New Queen's, is shortly to be opened again with farce, domestic drama, and burlesque.—During the long holiday of nine or twelve months which Mr. Edward Terry is about to give himself, his theatre will be occupied by the most eligible of the several tenants now after it. Among these are Mr. Calmire, with a new play in the fanciful vein of "The Amber Heart," and a financial broker, of course; and Mr. J. K. Jerome, with a fresh farcical comedy for Mr. Penley, who, with his moneyed supporters, would become temporary lessee of Terry's until the time of his owner's return to produce and reappear in Mr. Arthur Lee's new play, "Culprit."—Mr. Frank Marshall, husband of Miss Ada Cavendish, who has just passed away, is best remembered as a dramatist by his pretty comedy, "False Shame," played with success at the Globe, while under the management of the late H. J. Montague. It is known that Mr. Irving long since accepted an original play by Mr. Marshall, one of the many unacted scenes the Lyceum manager has obtained from wall-down playwrights for production in the dim and distant future.— Clarkson's, the old-established theatrical purveyor, has made to order for the leading London theatres, to be worn at the current Christmas productions, no fewer than 3,000 wigs.

## MADAME PATTI'S HAIR.

An American newspaper is responsible for the following statement:—In a letter to a friend in Chicago, Madame Patti encloses a photograph showing the new style of coiffure she has adopted, and makes some playful allusions to her new bright red hair. "It isn't blonde," she writes, "nor even golden brown, but red—bright red of the most gaudy shade. You know, I dare say, that I am in mourning for my sister. Black was never becoming to me. I look positively wicked in a black wrap and with a whole toilet and my black eyes and hair I was a most dismal creature to look upon. I not only found that the sombre tone in which I was cast had a depressing effect upon my own feelings, but was also unpleasant to my friends, and for their sake, as well as my own, I had my dark locks brightened."

## A FATAL MISTAKE.

A sad case of poisoning is reported from Wales. On New Year's Eve a young man in the employ of Mr. W. S. Powell, J.P., went to visit Mr. Hussey, head bailiff at Old Park Farm, Margam, near Swansea. Mr. Hussey sent for a jar of beer, but unfortunately the servant brought a jar containing liquid for sheep-dipping. The visitor on taking a drink said it had a queer taste. Hussey thereupon took a draught. He at once discovered the mistake and sent for a doctor, but his treatment was of no avail, and both men died the following morning.

## DEATH OF ONE OF DICKENS'S CHARACTERS.

Mr. Wynne E. Baxter, coroner for East London, held an inquest at St. George's-in-the-East Vestry Hall, respecting the death of George Ah Sing, a Chinaman, lately residing at 131, Cornwall-street, St. George's East. Ah Sing at one time kept an opium den in New-court, Victoria-street, E., which used to be visited by the Chinese seamen coming to this country and others who indulged in the use of the drug. This place was visited by Charles Dickens, and it is stated that Ah Sing forms one of the characters in "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."—Hannah Ah Sing, the widow, stated that deceased had been ill for the last two months, and on December 29th was taken very ill. At three a.m. he spat up a lot of blood, and died before a doctor could be procured. Deceased had been unable to follow any occupation for some time, and witness had supported him as well as she could. She earned sometimes 2s., 4s., and 6s. per week at charring and washing, and out of it paid 2s. for rent. She did not apply to the guardians for relief. She applied once to the Charity Organisation Society, but they refused to help her.—Dr. Theureren, 273, Cable-street, stated that death was due to the rupture of a blood-vessel in the lungs, following exhaustion consequent on privation.—The coroner remarked that this was only one of a number of cases he had before him where persons had died from the want of sufficient food. Yet half the population of London did not believe that such distress existed. This old couple would have been far better off in the workhouse; but to this respectable poor appeared to be refused them.—The jury concurred in these remarks, and returned a verdict that death was due to the rupture of a blood-vessel accelerated by destitution.

## THE BUILDER'S RESPONSIBILITY.

At the Wandsworth Police Court, Edward Palmer, a builder, appeared to answer a summons at the instance of Mr. W. H. Whitfield, on behalf of the Wimbledon Local Board, for that, in the erection of a dwelling-house in Effra-road, South Wimbledon, he neglected to cause the whole ground-surface to be properly asphalted or

## TERRIBLE CALAMITY AT FOREST GATE.

## Twenty-six Children Suffocated.

## Heartrending Scenes.

Early on Wednesday morning a terrible disaster occurred at the Industrial School at Forest Gate. After all the inmates and officials had retired for the night, a fire broke out in one of the boys' dormitories, and though the fire itself was not a particularly serious one, twenty-six of the boys sleeping in the dormitory were asphyxiated by smoke before the existence of the fire was discovered. Miss Bloomfield and Miss Terry, who are attached to the managing staff of the girls' department of the school, first became aware of the fire. They raised an alarm, and the superintendent of the institution hurried to the spot. With presence of mind he got out the fire-extinguishing apparatus, which was kept in readiness on the premises. This consists mainly of what is technically known as a "Fire Queen." With the extinguisher in his hand Mr. Duncan attempted to ascend a staircase leading to one of the dormitories, but was felled for a time by a dense cloud of smoke, which every moment increased in volume. He, however, managed to ascend by crawling upon his hands and knees. With some difficulty he got to No. 9 Dormitory, and found it was full of smoke. He shouted to the boys, but either received no answer or failed to hear any. Then, overcome by the smoke, he lost consciousness, and fell down on the floor. Quickly pulling himself together, he made a second attempt to reach the dormitory, and was hauled out by Elliott into the fresh air. A small chap now broke in, pointing to a still smaller, a child of seven, who had to be collared before he would escape, and the brothers now stood side by side to tell the story, the youngest laughing as he confessed. "He hiked me out by the braces, sir." A shock-headed youth, who kept in the background, was strongly suspected of having rescued his comrade by thrashing him into movement. However, sturdy but not big, came out of the smoke, dragging an urchin by each hand. "And I heard Jack say he'd go back for Tommy. He said, 'I'm a-goin' to give my life up. I am a-goin' back,'" was the statement of yet another, who knew by this time that Jack, alas! was amongst those silent ones in the infirmary. These were samples of the remembrance amongst the lads during the horrible trial there were many examples of real heroism. It is very probable that, in their half-dazed state, on being aroused, some boys were suffocated while fumbling for their clothes. One of the bodies, indeed, proved this; the poor lad had succumbed on the floor with only one trouser leg managed.

## The Alarm.

Forest Gate being near the great railway centre of Stratford, many servants of the Great Eastern Railway Company were, at the time the alarm was given, returning from their labour along the road which runs in front of the building. One of these observed smoke issuing from the windows before its presence had become known inside. There were soon plenty of railway men around the fire-engine, whose services which proved very useful. One of the men blew a whistle which was understood by the officer in charge of the fire escape at Forest Gate as a signal of fire. This officer having telegraphed to the chief district fire station, West Ham, hurried to the fire with his escape-ladder. The West Ham Central Brigade appeared on the scene with creditable promptitude, as did also the branch brigades stationed at Canning Town and Silver Town, so that by one o'clock a large quantity of water was being played on the fire.

## Saving Life.

The first effort of the combined forces was to save as many lives as possible. As soon as practicable the occupants of the two dormitories were carried away, but many of them were already dead, having been asphyxiated in their sleep. Altogether there were fifty-eight boys in the ill-fated rooms, and of these twenty-six fell a prey to the smoke. In only two cases were bodies burned, and it is thought that the burning took place after asphyxiation. The fire had originated in what is known as the ward-room, which, together with the "needle" room, immediately underlies No. 9 Dormitory, and is on the ground floor. A melancholy feature of the disaster is that before retiring for the night the superintendent had promised the boys that on Wednesday there should be a distribution of toys and sweetmeats, the day being observed as a holiday and in some degree as a day of festivity. The charred rooms also bore traces of the Christmas decorations, which this year had been on an extensive scale.

## The School:

The school is an old-established one, and children are sent there from different unions, the total number in residence being between 500 and 600. The building is a large brick one, consisting of three flats, in which are contained a large number of rooms where the different industrial occupations of the children are carried on. In addition to the main building there are other adjoining and smaller ones, including an infirmary. The boys are trained in engineering, gardening, carpentry, and other useful employments, while the girls learn sewing, kitchen work, and those useful branches which enable them to secure a respectable position in life.

## A Piteous Spectacle:

On a minute inspection of the dormitories in which the disaster occurred, one is astonished to think how it was that any of the poor little fellows who were in them were saved. Certainly nothing could have been more praiseworthy than the efforts of the police, who were directed by Inspectors Harvey and Roote, as also the firemen, the superintendent of the school (Mr. Duncan), and his staff. The coroner's officer, Sergeant Summer, took an active part in the rescue. To the right and left of the openings to both dormitories are rooms occupied by the sewing mistresses in the institution, one of whom was the Miss Bloomfield who was the first to notice the fire and give warning. After two doors had been broken open the work of rescue was a difficult and harassing one. The firemen had to work amid the blinding and suffocating smoke, and only two or three of them could enter the dormitories to the police officers who stood at the doors. All the little fellows were more or less stupefied by the smoke, hence the absence of any great excitement among them. The corpses, twenty-six in all, were taken to the infirmary hall, which is situated to the left of the building, and there they lay side by side, a heartrending spectacle. Those who were rescued alive quickly recovered, and returned a verdict that death was due to the rupture of a blood-vessel accelerated by destitution.

## Exciting Scene.

An exciting scene occurred during the progress of the fire. On the right side of one of the doors of No. 9 Dormitory is the bed-room of two of the sewing mistresses. Evidently thinking that there was no escape by the interior of the building, they flung open one of the windows in their room and made heartrending signals of distress. Some of the servants who slept on the lower part of the building saw the signals, and with great alacrity a ladder was run up against a wing of the main building directly under the window. About a yard from this window a large pipe runs perpendicular with the building, leading directly on to this side wing. The distance from the windows to the roof is only about six feet, and they were thus enabled by coming out upon the window ledge to grasp the pipe and slide down towards the roof, against which two ladders rested. The assistant cook got outside the window, laid hold of the iron water-pipe that ran up the wall, and with a grip that has severely scored her hands and arms, slid down to the ground. The dining-hall maid, not daring such afeat, threw herself off, cannoned against a tall chimney that rose from the lower building, and so bumping from the wall of the house she had left and the tall chimney, alighted on the lower roof, with nothing worse than a broken ankle.

## A Fearful Death.

The infirmary hall, a large well-ventilated room with four large windows round the walls, on which scriptural texts and mottoes are arranged, intertwined with profusion of holly, mistletoe, and other decorations familiar at this season of the year presented a truly heartrending sight. Along the sides of the walls were arranged the corpses of the victims. It was only on Tuesday, in fact, that they all trooped home from witnessing at Stratford Theatre the pantomime of "Jack and the Beanstalk." In most of the instances the expression on the faces of the lads was peaceful, and only one or two were scorched. There were, however, two terrible cases of burning. At the far end of No. 9 Dormitory a part of the floor gave way where the fire was the fiercest, and two of the corpses were burned in a fearful manner, being almost unrecognisable. The arms of one of these

contorted in seeming agony about the head, while the body is curled up.

## Statements by the Rescued Boys.

The rescued boys are for the most part bright, healthy-looking lads, and they are now none the worse for their peril. They were eager to tell all they knew. Their memories of awakening are, however, confused. Some were aroused by the coughing of a comrade, and jumped out of bed. Many not realising what was happening, and half asleep, returned to the warm bed-clothes again, and now lie in the blankets on the infirmary floor. Even one of the men is said, when told of the fire, to have answered, "Nonsense; they are only getting the fire ready for the pudding." One or two boys in the lower dormitory jumped out upon the window ledges. Others were dragged out by their brothers or companions. One had told how he heard Elliott (who was the first to enter No. 10) shouting through the smoke, "Come out, boys!" Did he know Elliott's voice? "Certain, 'twas Elliott that was sent to hunt 'em up when they ran away." Jones, a smart boy, heard another boy cough, woke up, leaped out of bed, and went to look for his little brother. Little brother insisted upon putting on his socks before he left the ward, and fell down on the floor never to rise again. Jones began to choke too, but was hauled out by Elliott into the fresh air. A small chap now broke in, pointing to a still smaller, a child of seven, who had to be collared before he would escape, and the brothers now stood side by side to tell the story, the youngest laughing as he confessed. "He hiked me out by the braces, sir." A shock-headed youth, who kept in the background, was strongly suspected of having rescued his comrade by thrashing him into movement. However, sturdy but not big, came out of the smoke, dragging an urchin by each hand. "And I heard Jack say he'd go back for Tommy. He said, 'I'm a-goin' to give my life up. I am a-goin' back,'" was the statement of yet another, who knew by this time that Jack, alas! was amongst those silent ones in the infirmary. These were samples of the remembrance amongst the lads during the horrible trial there were many examples of real heroism. It is very probable that, in their half-dazed state, on being aroused, some boys were suffocated while fumbling for their clothes. One of the bodies, indeed, proved this; the poor lad had succumbed on the floor with only one trouser leg managed.

## The Victims.

The following are the names of the boys:—Augustus Flower, aged 10; Theophilus Flowers, 9; John Jones, 7; John Taylor, 7; Michael Vassum, 8; Frederick Smith, 9; Edward Kilburn, 9; John Joyce, 10; Richard Page, 7; James Potts, 10; William Hume, 9; Frank Chalk, 7; Herbert Russell, 10; James Roote, 8; Thomas North, 12; Walter Earle, 9; Charles Biddick, 12; Frederick Scott, 7; Henry Sowerbutts, 10; Gilbert Hallison, 10; Thomas Hughes, 11; William Dawson, 7; Frederick Wigmore, 8; William Silcott, 9; Arthur Pidgeon, 9; Albert Smith, 12.

## Opening of the Inquest.

Mr. C. C. Lewis, coroner for South Essex, on Thursday afternoon opened the inquest respecting the deaths of the twenty-six boys who were suffocated at West Ham Industrial School.

Though it was generally understood the evidence given would be merely as to identification of the bodies, a large number of the public surrounded the entrance to the school and endeavoured unsuccessfully to gain access to the building. The coroner conducted his inquiry in the Girl's School room. Several members of the Board of Governors were present, including the chairman, Mr. H. J. Cook, Mr. H. E. Davis, fire expert and surveyor to the coroners of Middlesex and the City of London, also attended. Those relatives of the deceased who attended were conducted to seats by the deputy-chaplain, Mr. Cowen, and several appeared overcome with grief. Inspector Isaac Thompson represented the police.—After the swearing of the jury, the coroner said they had been empanelled to inquire into one of the most lamentable occurrences that it had ever fallen to the lot of a jury to investigate. Happening as it had in a public institution, he felt sure they would spare no time or trouble in endeavouring to ascertain its real and true origin. He proposed that the proceedings that day should be of a preliminary character. Evidence would be taken of identification, and afterwards he hoped to be able to give such instructions as would ensure that the whole of the evidence should be presented in consecutive form.

—Mr. P. A. Nairn, solicitor (Messrs. Baker and Nairn), informed the coroner that he represented the board of management of the school, and every facility would be afforded to secure a full inquiry. —The jury then viewed the bodies and the scene of the fire. —The Superintendent's Evidence.

Mr. Charles Duncan, superintendent of the school, was the first witness examined. He said the whole of the children retired to bed at a quarter to eight on December 31st, that being the customary time. Nothing unusual happened until he was called up at 12.35. On being aroused from bed he was told by Miss Terry, the needle-mistress, that the needle-room was on fire. He at once passed down the stairs, and took the fire-extinguisher with him. He discovered the needle-room, the passage leading to it, and the staircase leading to the dormitories full of smoke, so dense that he found it difficult to breathe.





It was seen that the little ones had been suffocated by the smoke, and their end was, happily, unaccompanied by the awful agony of a death struggle in the embrace of the flames. The little faces were peaceful and painless—unmarked even, for the most part, by the hot breath of the devouring element. The children lay just as they had fallen asleep, tired out with their afternoon at the pantomime, to dream of its glories and of the new toys and good things promised for the New Year's Day which was not to dawn for them, sleeping the sleep of childhood prolonged into eternity. Of the remaining children who were saved from the burning dormitories, none seem to have been seriously hurt, and it is pleasing to learn that many of the lads were true in the hour of terrible panic to the instincts of coolness and pluck inherent in British boys, and that they displayed a fearless and unselfish devotion in rescuing their companions which would do credit to grown men. A special word of commendation is, likewise, due to the admirable conduct of the superintendent, Mr. DUNCAN, whose heroic efforts to save the little lives committed to his care will not, we trust, be allowed to pass without the recognition they deserve.

What was the cause of the catastrophe? Until an investigation (which must be of the most thoroughly searching character) has been held, it is impossible to speak positively on that point. If, however, the published accounts of the matter may be accepted as substantially correct, the origin of the fire is to be traced to a pipe which ran from a stove in the wardrobe-room, above which the doomed dormitories were situated. That pipe is described (whether correctly or not we do not know) as running through a wooden partition dividing the wardrobe-room from the store-room. And it was in the slit between the two portions of that partition that the matron, Miss BLOOMFIELD, who first raised the alarm, perceived sparks burning, while smoke and flame issued through the joint of the pipe. It is stated, however, that this piping in no part touches the wooden partition, but is cut off from all connection with the woodwork by two iron rings. Of course, all statements on this matter will be carefully examined and verified. But, speaking with all reserve, we may fairly say that at the first hearing this arrangement seems incompatible with the requirements of safety. To carry a stove-pipe through, or in close proximity to, any woodwork is a proceeding which it is impossible to justify. The dictates of common sense and common prudence indicate as much, while the history of an enormous number of cases of fire, especially in old country houses where modern structural alterations have been adapted to existing conditions, points to the same conclusion. The statement that the piping does not actually touch the woodwork cannot be accepted as a good defence, and we shall, therefore, hope that the authorities will be able to prove that the fire was not due to such a highly dangerous structural arrangement, but to one of those unavoidable accidents which baffle architectural skill and the vigilance of those who are responsible for the safety of life and property. We are bound to add that the care exercised to prevent such a disaster does not seem to have been adequate. The school has accommodation for 720 children, and a very large number of these must have been within the building for the fatal night. Nevertheless, we gather from the reports that the number of grown-up people on the premises was exceedingly small. Moreover, which is worse still, there does not seem to have been any night porter or watchman to patrol the buildings and to be on the alert for an alarm of fire. Such a person should be engaged as a matter of course at every large institution of this kind. Had there been a watchman on duty at the Forest Gate Industrial School on New Year's Eve it is more than possible that not a single life would have been sacrificed.

### THE STATE AND STRIKES.

The possibility of London being thrown into darkness by a general strike of gas-workers has set many minds thinking as to whether the State would not be justified in interfering with a high hand. Of course, in ordinary quarrels between capital and labour the sole duty of the State is to see that both get fair play. It has no more concern to champion the interests of capital than to uphold those of labour. But it would not be difficult to imagine a case in which State interference would be necessitated by circumstances. Suppose, for instance, that London stood in danger of having its water supply or its food supply stopped by widespread strikes; clearly the State would be bound to take instant action to remove the embargo. It appears, therefore, that there are some instances in which the executive would be not only justified, but compelled, to side with capital. Would a general gas strike come into that category? We should like to have the opinion of the law officers of the Crown on that point. Several cogent reasons might be adduced in support of the proposition. The law frowns upon combinations designed to prevent people from pursuing their lawful callings, and as the total cessation of our gas supply would undoubtedly do that innumerable instances, it appears arguable that the strikers would render themselves liable to prosecution. At the same time, strikers in themselves are perfectly lawful; Englishmen have a right to give or withhold their labour, subject to the provisions of existing agreements. And that being the case, it might be logically contended that the situation is precisely the same as regards the law, whether the hands of a single concern or of many throw up work. Matters being in this puzzling state, the Government would do well to seek guidance from Sir RICHARD WEBSTER and Sir EDWARD CLARKE. It is pretty certain that

next year will witness industrial disputes on an unprecedented scale. At present the employed are much more efficiently organised than the employers, and it is a knowledge of that fact which encourages the Trade Union leaders to adopt such aggressive tactics. But it is probable that the masters will shortly seek to strengthen their fighting forces. They could do so without much difficulty by organising Employers' Unions in every leading industry, and by federating these unions so that the whole forces of capital could be directed from a single centre. This is already done in Victoria, Australia, and it is claimed that the most auspicious results have attended both to capital and labour. We can readily believe it; there would be far fewer industrial complications in this country but for the temptation constantly presented to the Trade Union leaders by the lack of unity among employers. So far, therefore, from depreciating the proposal to create Employers' Unions, we heartily welcome the same by reason of its being calculated to put an end to those barbarous methods of adjusting trade quarrels which threaten to work unmeasured mischief to the whole nation.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has just issued a fair challenge to Mr. Parnell and the Nationalist members of Parliament. The Irish chief, as every one remembers, has lately told the world what are the benefits which the Irish people expect to get from Home Rule. These are such practical and material advantages as light railways, arterial drainage, improved harbours, development of fisheries, and so forth. But how, asks Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, is the existence of these desires and expectations to be reconciled with the conduct of the Irish members and the rest of the Opposition during the last Parliamentary Session? Did not the Government introduce several measures on these very lines? And did not these measures incur the uncompromising hostility of Mr. Parnell and his party? Here, then, is a chance for Mr. Parnell to prove the sincerity of his statements as to the real wants of Ireland. Let him openly declare that he will support the forthcoming Irish legislation of the Government in the direction of improving the material condition of the country. Will Mr. Parnell accept the challenge? We doubt it. But by his acceptance or refusal must be estimated the value of his claims to be considered a true friend to his fellow-countrymen.

An excellent New Year's gift, indeed, is that offered to the London public by the anonymous donor who has given £100,000 for the establishment of a convalescent home for patients discharged from the London hospitals. To such a gift as this no possible exception can be taken on any ground whatever. A great convalescent home of this kind is sorely needed. The in-patient of a London hospital often leaves the institution which has saved his life in a condition of weakness which completely unfit him to return to the surroundings of poverty and hardship amidst which he has to fight the hard battle of life. Very often the work of cure is not really completed without a period of convalescence, in which the patient, undisturbed by anxiety or the necessity of hard work, enjoys pure air and good food. To few, alas! of our hospital patients is that blessed time of rest possible, and the result is, too frequently, a relapse into ill-health from which there may be no recovery. All honour, therefore, to the generous giver, whoever he may be, who has come forward to show those who rail against "capital" the great and good deeds which only a capitalist can do.

### KILLED ON THE LINE.

While a porter, named Hole, employed at the Great Western Station at Netley, Plymouth, was walking along the line on Thursday, he discovered portions of a human body. He called the assistance of a constable, and the remains were taken to the mortuary, where they were identified as those of a man named Eulow. It is supposed that deceased, while endeavouring to cross the line, was knocked down by a train.

### CHARGE OF DRUGGING AND ASSAULTING A WOMAN.

Dr. Herman Tribe, an old-established medical practitioner of Chatham, was on Thursday charged on a warrant before the Chatham stipendiary magistrate, with drugging and afterwards committing a criminal assault on Rose Jarvis, a married woman. The prisoner was remanded, and bail was refused.

### TERRIBLE DEATH.

A young woman, named Mary Fox, daughter of a publican, of Tallaght, Dublin, was killed on the Ballyfermot steam tram line on Thursday. The young woman attempted to leave the car at the wrong end, and her clothes were caught by the works of the engine, and she was dragged on to the track and pulled a distance of thirty yards. Her body, when extricated, was found to be terribly mangled. The deceased was returning home from a dancing party.

### A GIRL BURIED ALIVE.

About a month ago diphtheria appeared at the house of a prominent family in Madison, Wis. A young domestic was terribly frightened, and desired to go to her home, but this the physician would not permit. A young child having died of the disease, the girl took to her bed, and apparently died in a few hours. She was at once buried by the authorities. A few weeks after her parents obtained permission to remove the body to the country. Upon opening the casket they were horrified to discover the body lying on its face, with the hair wrenched from the head and the flesh literally torn from the face and hands. The girl had been buried alive!

### A RECENT ARRIVAL AT THE ZOO.

The ordinary notion of a deer is probably of an animal of considerable bulk, but this group of mammals, like many others, includes representatives of most varied sizes. One of the very smallest members of the group—a little creature not much more than a foot in length—is at present to be seen in the Marquis House (which, by the way, shelters almost fewer "marsupials" than anything else). It is known as Stanley's chevrotain, and was named by Dr. Gray after Lord Derby (grandfather of the present earl), who owned a magnificent menagerie. Apart from its cloven hoofs, the animal looks less like a deer than a small rodent or even marsupial; it never possesses horns, and the male has a pair of very long curved canine teeth in the upper jaw, which may perhaps be used for fighting. A much more remarkable deer has been assigned to these extraordinarily developed teeth; it has been said that the deer when too hotly pursued springs into a tree and remains suspended by its teeth until the pursuers have passed by. This is, however, one of those statements which hardly seem to need refutation.

A man who was charged at the Thames Police Court on Saturday, with assault, when arrested gave the name of "Jack the Ripper." He was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment.

### ALLEGED WHOLESALE ROBBERIES IN LONDON.

At the Marylebone Police Court, George Harvey, butcher, of Acton-street, Kingsland-road, and Henry Butcher, 27, a tanner of Brougham-road, Dalton, were charged with being concerned together in stealing, on the 11th of December, from 12, Eaton-road, Hampstead, a diamond brooch and a watch, valued at £20, the property of Walter Stivers; also with stealing from 9, Savernake-road, a pair of marine gloves and a coat ring, worth 30s., belonging to William H. Mason; and from 19, Lyndhurst-road, a plated bracelet, worth 7s. 6d., belonging to Joseph Larham.—According to statement by Detective-inspector Bannister, the prisoners are men who are believed to have been committing robberies all over London, gaining admittance to gentlemen's houses under the pretence of having come to inspect the drains or the water-pipes.—Police-constable 403 S said he was on duty at Albany-street Police Station at half-past four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, when, in consequence of information received from a lady living at Cumberland-terrace, Regent's Park, he went there, and arrived in time to see the prisoner Harvey leaving the area of No. 13. He at once made for the prisoner, who, seeing witness approaching, walked across the carriage drive, and jumped a wall into the terrace gardens. Witness jumped after him, and asked him to bring it to her next morning, in order that they might both go to Whiteley's and make inquiries. When she called as arranged, a detective was in waiting, and he immediately took possession of the animal. Her "Moppy" had the misfortune to set his eye scratched in a fight with a cat. The wound had been dressed by a veterinary surgeon, and left a scar. She had seen the scar on the dog which Mrs. Edmunds had in court.—At the suggestion of the magistrate Mrs. Edmunds released the dog from the lead to which it was fastened, and upon Miss Peters calling out, "Moppy, Moppy, come along Moppy," in a cooing tone, the animal ran across the bench, wagging its tail, and apparently delighted to meet Miss Peters, who patted it affectionately on the back.—Mrs. Edmunds said,

### "MOPPY" OR "JEM?" Amusing Case.

At the Marlborough-street Police Court, Dr. Joseph Edmunds, of Grafton-street, Bond-street, appeared to an adjourned summons charging him with detaining a pug dog belonging to Marie Peters, of Grafton-street, Fitzroy-square. Mr. Barthur Norman, solicitor, appeared for the complainant.—At the last hearing of the case Miss Peters said that in November, 1888, she bought at the dog in question in Leadenhall Market, and christened it "Moppy." She scratched the name and address of the dog on its collar. On the 17th of July, 1889, she lost the dog, and gave information about the matter to the police at the Tottenham Court-road Police Station. Subsequently, in November, Mrs. Payne a friend of hers who knew "Moppy" well, sent a message to her that she had found the dog. She immediately went to Mrs. Payne's residence and saw the dog, which immediately recognised her. On taking it home she discovered that instead of having her address on its collar, there was written on it the name of Mrs. Edmunds, Grafton-street, Bond-street. On December 6th she took the collar to Mrs. Edmunds, and informed her that she found it on the dog she had lost some months previously. Mrs. Edmunds asserted that the dog on which she had put the collar was one which she had bought at Whiteley's, and asked her to bring it to her next morning. When she called as arranged, a detective was in waiting, and he immediately took possession of the animal. Her "Moppy" had the misfortune to set his eye scratched in a fight with a cat. The wound had been dressed by a veterinary surgeon, and left a scar. She had seen the scar on the dog which Mrs. Edmunds had in court.—At the suggestion of the magistrate Mrs. Edmunds released the dog from the lead to which it was fastened, and upon Miss Peters calling out, "Moppy, Moppy, come along Moppy," in a cooing tone, the animal ran across the bench, wagging its tail, and apparently delighted to meet Miss Peters, who patted it affectionately on the back.—Mrs. Edmunds said,

**THE GREAT ROBBERY OF BONDS.** At the Mansion House Police Court, Hatfield Thomas Turner, 65, of no occupation, and Frederick Clark, 49, surveyor, were charged on remand, before Alderman Sir Andrew Lusk, M.P., with forging and uttering a Chilian bond for £1,000, with intent to defraud Sir Robert W. Carden and Co., stockbrokers, 3, Threadneedle-street, and with being concerned in stealing and receiving five South and North Alabama Central bonds of £200 each which had been stolen, with other bonds of the value of £22,000, from the premises of Messrs. Baring Brothers, 3, Bishopsgate-street, in 1888. Mr. C. F. Gill conducted the prosecution; Mr. Geoghegan and Mr. Holmes Moss appeared for the defence.—The circumstances have been reported, and on the last examination evidence was given, tracing the Chilian bond, part of the stolen property, and the number of which had been forged by altering it from £5,800 to £5,850, into the prisoner's possession. Further evidence was adduced, tracing the bank notes given in exchange for the cheque of Sir Robert Carden and Co., in respect of the sale of the bond, to the prisoner.—Detective-sergeant Downes, of the City police force, said that he had an interview with the prisoner Turner at the offices of Sir Robert Carden and Co. on December 9th last. He told him the Chilian bond for £1,000 in question had been stolen and forged. He said, "That's what you say." Witness asked him where he got it from. He said he received it some time since from a Dr. Daly, of Brooklyn, New York, who stayed at the Langham Hotel, and paid him £925 for it in notes and gold. Witness asked him where he obtained the money. He replied that

He had £200 from his Bank at Woolwich. Witness asked him where the remainder came from. He replied, "That's my business." Witness asked if he had any receipts or documents. He replied, "We did not require any; you might," adding, "Is there anything more you want? I have told you all." Witness said, "No, you have not, and you may depend up it you have not heard the last of this." He replied, "You may give me credit for knowing a little." The prisoner further said he had instructed Clark to get an advance on the bond, but not to sell it; and that Dr. Daly, who had returned to America, was the owner of a cattle ranch in which he was interested, and he (Daly) would return in April next.—Relying to Mr. Moss, the witness said he was informed that Turner had had a previous interview with the firm of Sir Robert Carden and Co. He told Turner he was a police officer. He heard the prisoner threaten to serve a writ on Sir Robert Carden and Co. for having stopped a cheque.—By Mr. Gill: He had found no trace of "Dr. Daly" in London.—William Hibbert, a clerk at the Langham Hotel, said no person giving the name of Dr. Daly, of Brooklyn, New York, had stopped there.—Mrs. Brown, of Brambley-road, Plumstead, said the prisoner Turner had lodged in her house for about a year and nine months. He occupied one room, for which he paid 4s. 6d. per week. He used to be out all day. She did not know what his occupation was.—By Mr. Geoghegan: No visitors came there. She had never seen the prisoner Clark there.—Mr. Gill: Not Dr. Daly, I presume?—Witness: No.—Sir Andrew Lusk said he had thought a Chilian bond was as saleable on the market as a French bond and he could not understand why there had been so much secrecy in the matter, or why the bond should have passed through so many hands.—Mr. Gill said there had been an equal amount of secrecy and intricacy in cashing the cheques and dealing with the money so as to destroy the identity.—This concluded the case in regard to the Chilian bond, and Sir A. Lusk intimated his intention to commit the prisoners for trial.—The hearing of the charge in respect of the Alabama bonds was fixed for the 9th January.—Bail was refused.

**A TALE OF DISTRESS.** At the West London Police Court, Priscilla White, the wife of a musician, living in Haydn Park-road Flats, was charged with stealing three sheets and other articles, the property of her aunt, Caroline Wye, who resided in Cathnor-road, Shepherd's Bush.—The property which was taken by the prisoner while she was residing in her aunt's house was produced by two pawnbrokers. She stated that she was in distress at the time, and her aunt was aware that she had pledged the articles.—Police-constable Moran, who apprehended the prisoner at the flats where she was now living, said it was a case of great distress. The prisoner's husband was out of employment, and there were five children. There was not a bed for them to lie on, or anything in the place.—The prosecutrix was recalled, and said the prisoner promised to return the things. She gave her into custody because she had not done so.—Mr. Plowden said the prosecutrix had condoned the offence. He should discharge the prisoner.

**SEQUEL TO AN SLOPEMENT.** At the East Kent Quarter Sessions at Canterbury, Sarah Hannah Randall, 39, and Charles Hadler, 23, were charged on indictment with stealing £18 and a quantity of house linen and wearing apparel, belonging to William J. Randall, shipwright, of Sheerness, the husband of the female prisoner.—From the evidence of a number of witnesses, it appeared the parties became acquainted about eighteen months since, and that Hadler was in the habit of visiting at prosecutor's house. Last Christmas he took the business of a baker, and called regularly with bread, staying an hour or two every afternoon. According to the evidence of the prosecutor, the relations between his wife and himself had not been so agreeable as could be wished, and when, on the occasion of a quarrel in the early part of September, his wife threatened to run away from him, he told her she had better do so. On the 30th of that month Randall's wife and Hadler disappeared, together with the articles mentioned in the indictment. A few weeks since, however, they were traced to Portsmouth, and found occupying furnished apartments. Hadler, it was alleged, was arrested wearing an old coat belonging to prosecutor. He had £22 odd in his possession, and the other articles were found in the apartments.—For the defence it was denied that either the goods or the money belonged to prosecutor, and after a long investigation the jury acquitted the prisoners.

**A MUSHROOM MYTH.** It is a popular error that mushrooms grow to their full size during a single night, and that they dissolve and vanish after the sun shines upon them. They are rapid in growth and rapid in decay; but the same mushroom may be watched growing and expanding for two or three days, and then gradually decaying away. Much depends on the dampness or dryness of the season. In some seasons they are exceedingly plentiful, while at other times they are comparatively rare. This also is believed to depend chiefly on climatic conditions. It is not unusual for cultivated mushrooms to become attacked by a parasitic mould, which renders them unfit for food. This misfortune rarely happens to the wild form, until it is in process of decay. The catacombs of Paris are noted for their production of mushrooms in immense quantities. From the Miry caves as many as 3,000 pounds are sometimes sent to market daily. We have heard of a crop being grown in a batbox.

**THE MUZZLING ORDER IN KENT.** Considerable dissatisfaction prevails in Kent, on account of the dog-muzzling order, which came into force on Wednesday. The regulation is generally regarded as altogether unnecessary, as there are no cases of rabies in the county. At a meeting of the Canterbury Town Council, the town clerk produced a copy of the order, whereupon a discussion arose on the question of the time that should be allowed for the detention of stray dogs before disposing of them. The mayor said he hoped the order would not be carried out in an arbitrary spirit, and that no prosecutions would be ordered without due consideration on the part of the watch committee. It was decided that dogs seized under the regulation should be kept three days before being disposed of.

### CHRISTMAS AT THE LONDON HOSPITAL

Among those who were present in the Victoria Ward of the London Hospital, Whitechapel-road, to witness the distribution of Christmas toys to the child sufferers in this great charitable institution and to assist in their entertainment for a brief hour, were Princess Ghika, Lady Guise, Mr. Murray Ind (chairman of the hospital), Mr. J. H. Burton (treasurer), Dr. and Mrs. Fenwick, Dr. Gilbert Smith, Dr. Sansom, Dr. Stephen MacKenzie, Mr. A. F. Charrington, Mr. T. P. Cobb, Mr. P. M. Martineau, Mr. Ruggles-Brise, Rev. Sidney Vacher, Mr. Noel Buxton, Mr. Arthur Wag, and many others. Children from the other wards participated in the entertainment, and even those who were so feeble that they had to sit up in their cots enjoyed the spectacle of decorations and Christmas trees and the fun of Punch and Judy shows. Mr. Leopold Rothschild gave £10 towards the entertainment, and the Princess Ghika and other ladies and gentlemen also contributed. It may be stated that upwards of 110,000 patients were attended in this hospital last year, or more than 2,000 per week. The ordinary annual expenditure amounts to at least £23,000, the deficit having to be made up by voluntary contributions. The very poorest show their appreciation of it by themselves contributing over £2,000 a year by means of the "People's Fund."

### A SINGULAR FATALITY.

At Wareham a singular fatality occurred a few days ago. A young Jewess from Kief was visiting her friends in the Polish capital, who gave her a ball in honour of their handsome youngkins. The latter purchased for the occasion a pair of long Danish gloves. Whilst dancing the young lady felt a severe pain in her left wrist, which became suddenly inflamed and swollen. It appears that whilst making her toilette she had slightly pricked her wrist with a pin. A medical examination showed that the young lady was suffering from carbuncle and blood-poisoning contracted from the gloves, which the doctors declare to have been made from the skin of an animal suffering from carbuncle or anthrax. Notwithstanding the various means adopted by the doctors to save the unfortunate patient, she died within forty-eight hours in great agony. The fatal gloves were purchased in a fashionable Wareham shop.

### IMITATING MRS. MAYBRICK.

Another crime, almost exactly identical with the Maybrick case, has been perpetrated at Boston, on the Don. A merchant of that town lately married the daughter of a wealthy landowner for the sake of her dowry. The young woman, finding that her husband was more in love with her money than her person, transferred her affection to a young man in her husband's employ. Shortly after this the merchant fell ill. The young wife sent for the physicians, but all their efforts to save the life of the unfortunate merchant were in vain. His early and sudden death excited suspicion, and it was decided to hold a post mortem. It was then discovered that the sympathetic young wife had systematically and deliberately poisoned her unfortunate husband, with the intention of marrying his employer.

The directors of the London Joint Stock Bank have resolved to declare, at the half-yearly general meeting to be held on the 16th inst., a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £12,700.

## LAST WEEK'S POLICE.

## City Summons Court.

**FATIGUE DRIVING IN LEADENHALL-STREET.**—Harry East, carman, was charged on a summons with driving his pony and van to the common danger of the public in Leadenhall-street.—Evidence was given that the defendant drove at the rate of about eight miles an hour, and came into violent collision with a four-wheeled cab, the shaft of the cart striking the cab horse in the neck and injuring it. The vehicles became locked, and some little time elapsed before they were able to get clear. Both vehicles narrowly escaped being overturned. There was an invalid in the cab, who was much frightened.—A gentleman came forward on behalf of the defendant, and said he had known him for five or six years, as a very respectable young man. He had lost his situation after six years' service owing to this accident. The explanation he gave of it at the time was that it was the first time he had driven in London, and the pony became unmanageable.—The cabman was called, and said he had been compensated for the injury to his horse.—Mr. Alderman Hart fined the defendant 30s., and costs.

## Bow-street:

**A HARD CASE.**—Mary Bastable, of Stanley-road, Croydon, was summoned before Mr. Bridge for attempting to obtain money by fraud from the Admiralty.—Mr. Angus Lewis prosecuted. He said that the summons was taken out under the 6th section of the Admiralty Act of 1883. An engineer, named Benjamin Gent, who had been employed in the Government service, died in September last. His wife, if he had had one, would have been entitled to a small sum of money and also to a pension of £50 a year. A day or two after his death a letter was received by the Admiralty from the defendant, stating that she was his widow. She filled up the usual forms, and on being requested to sign in the certificate of her marriage forwarded the partly burnt remains of a marriage certificate, which on close examination proved not to be that of her marriage with the deceased engineer. Inquiries were then made, which showed that for years she had lived with Gent as his wife, but she was not married to him, as she had a husband still living. Under the circumstances this prosecution had to be instituted, but he (Mr. Lewis) was instructed to ask for leniency from the learned magistrate in dealing with the case.—The defendant pleaded guilty, and elected to be dealt with by the magistrate instead of going before a jury. She told a pitiful story of the sad life she lived with her lawful husband, and her reasons for going to live with the deceased. In answer to questions by Mr. Bridge, she said she was 68 years of age, and had lived with Gent since 1862.—Mr. Bridge said the offence with which she was charged and to which she had pleaded guilty was a very serious one. So serious was it considered by legislators that the Act provided that if a case of this kind went before a jury as much as five years' penal servitude could be imposed as the penalty. Still, in this case he must say he felt great compassion for the defendant. She had been unfortunate in her first marriage, her husband appearing to have been a man no woman could live with. With the second man (the deceased, Gent) she had lived for a long time, and he could not overlook the fact that there were many in her rank of life who looked upon such unions as almost, if not quite, equal to a state of matrimony. That the deceased was a good man was shown by his having earned the pension referred to, and that she had acted as a good wife to him seemed equally clear, for, without the marriage tie, they had kept together since 1862, and must, therefore, have been to themselves mutually estimable persons. Still, the offence the defendant had been guilty of was, as he had said, a serious one, and he could not do less than pass a sentence of twenty-one days' imprisonment, but without hard labour.

## Mansion House.

**EXCITING SCENE ON LONDON BRIDGE.**—Patrick Day, a ship's fireman, was charged, on remand, before the Lord Mayor, with a street robbery.—The complainant was Mr. W. J. Wright, the landlord of the King's Arms tavern, Peckham Rye. On the night of December 20th he was crossing over London Bridge, when the prisoner suddenly emerged from the steps leading into Thames-street, and ran into him head foremost. The force of the blow made Mr. Wright spin round, and at the same moment the prisoner snatched at his gold watch and chain, worth £15, and ran away. The prosecutor shouted, "Stop thief!" and a bystander named Craven followed, and after a severe struggle and fight caught him. The prisoner threw the watch and chain away, and they had not been recovered. When before the court the prisoner pleaded guilty, and said he was starving.—The Lord Mayor said he ought to have been charged with robbery with violence, as it was a serious assault. He sentenced him to four months' hard labour.

## Marlborough-street.

**DRUNKEN DRIVERS.**—A number of cabdrivers were brought up for drunkenness in the streets.

—James Ching, who wanted to find Bentinck-street, at half-past one o'clock that morning, but could not pronounce the name sufficiently clear for a policeman to understand him, and when told to get off his box and explain had to cling to the spokes of a wheel to steady himself, was fined 20s. or fourteen days.—William Harvey, the driver of a four-wheeler, was too drunk on Friday afternoon, it was said, to see a refuge in Oxford-street, and consequently he drove right on to it, getting one of the posts behind the vehicle and the body of the car, and so turning it completely round from east to west.—Prisoner: I had a very awkward horse your worship, and he would go where he liked. (Laughter). He ought to have seen the post.—Harvey was fined 5s.—Thomas Morton, when challenged by the police to come off his box after his horse had fallen in Oxford-street, hiccoughed and refused to obey the order. His horse was again put into the shafts and led to the station, whilst he, with his head reclining on his breast, and holding his whip as though he was perfectly sober, had a ride there for nothing. On reaching Vine-street several constables handed him down, carried him aside and locked him up. On Saturday morning he said he had a bad attack of asthma, and a gentleman, commiserating with him, gave him a glass of gin. Afterwards his legs gave way, and he could not stand. His old "oss" must have been queer itself, or it would not have fallen down and so got him into trouble. He was fined 5s.—John Gordon, the driver of a hansom, exhibited his drunkenness in Piccadilly early in the morning. When a constable ordered him to pull up, he said something which "no fellow could understand." "Indeed," said the constable, "I could not make anything out of him—he seemed to have lost his senses."—Prisoner: Guilty; Christmas time, your worship.—Mr. Newton: Five shillings.—John Glass, when ordered by a gentleman in Pall Mall to take him to his residence, drove another way altogether, and so exasperated the fare that he got out and complained to the police. Then Glass was ordered to come down from his box. When he did so it was found that he was far gone in liquor.—A penalty of 5s. was imposed.

**A DISORDERLY "SUPER."**—Herbert Booth was charged with assaulting Albert Noble, the "super" master at Her Majesty's Theatre, on Friday night.—Prosecutor, whose head was bandaged, said that the prisoner had been employed as a "super" in the pantomime. Mr. Leslie had directed him (prosecutor) to check any of the men who should use objectionable language to any of the females. On Friday night witness went into the "supers" room, and found the prisoner there creating a disturbance and using bad language. Consequently he handed him over to an inspector on duty, and he was turned out of the building. Later in the evening witness had occasion to speak to a linkman at the corner of Charles-street, when the prisoner approached as he left the man, and said, "Now I have got you for yourself I will give it to you," and at the same time the prisoner was further remanded to enable the prosecutor to question him.

## Thames.

**CHARGE OF CHILD MURDER.**—Isabella Duncan, 18, domestic servant, and a native of Portsoy, Scotland, who was lately in service at Aberdeen, was brought up on remand, charged with feloniously killing her newly-born female child by cutting its throat. No evidence was taken, and the prisoner was further remanded to enable the prosecutor to question her.

time he gave him several blows on the nose, knocked him down, and kicked him severely on the head and shoulders. On Saturday morning he excused his conduct by saying that the drink did it, and he was sorry.—Mr. Newton sent him to prison for a month.

## Marylebone.

**CHASED BY A CABBY.**—John and Charles Davies, aged 20 and 24 respectively, were charged with stealing a waterproof and a horse's loin-cloth, worth 18s., belonging to George Eddle, living at Tunton-place, Marylebone.—The prosecutor had driven a fare from Charing Cross to Blandford-street, where he set him down. The gentleman accepted him to have some refreshment, and he accepted a cigar, which he had to go into a public-house to get. Immediately afterwards somebody outside called to him that some men had stolen the "tools" from his cab. He at once got out of his seat, and, aided by the man's direction, went after the men. When they found they were being pursued, the prisoner John dropped the waterproof and continued to run away. Prosecutor overtook them, when John had round his neck. Prosecutor seized hold of John and shouted "Police!" and Police-constable 59 D caught the prisoner Charles, who was running away.—The prisoners now pretended that they were in no way connected, and John said he was the guilty party.—Mr. Cooke sentenced each of the prisoners to six weeks' imprisonment.

**A STRANGE AFFILIATION CASE.**—Alfred Crabb, aged 21, residing at Hushenden, Cator-road, Lower Sydenham, was summoned before Mr. Cooke to show cause why he should not be adjudged the father of the child of Emma Southgate, residing at 3, Snowden-terrace, Kilburn. Mr. Upjohn, solicitor, defended. The complainant, a good-looking young woman, said she was confined of a child on the 26th of September, and the defendant was the father of the child. She first became acquainted with defendant in the September of 1888. She lived next door to where he resided, and he used to call and see a lady in the house. The intimacy took place in the house in November and December. Subsequently she told him of her condition, and he said he would do what he could for her. She had not seen him since April last.—Cross-examined: Her parents resided at Stowmarket, Suffolk. It was not true that she had previously been confined. Mr. Upjohn informed the magistrate that he held in his hand a certificate obtained from Somerset House setting forth that a woman named Emma Southgate gave birth to a child, living in Cardinal-road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, on November 29th, 1888, and he desired to press the complainant on this point. He therefore cross-examined her on the certificate.—The complainant said there was no Emma Southgate in Cardinal-road, Stowmarket, as far as she knew. She lived there at that date.—Mr. Upjohn categorically questioned the complainant on all the items in the certificate, all of which she answered distinctly, testifying that she had never given birth to a child prior to the one in regard to which she was now suing.—Mr. Cooke also questioned the complainant, and she adhered to her statement. There was, she said, another family named Southgate in the town.—Mr. Cooke said there must be further inquiry into this matter, as if it was true the complainant might be prosecuted for perjury.—Elizabeth Southgate said she lived next door but one to the complainant at Stowmarket in November, 1888, but she was in no way related. She distinctly remembered the complainant being confined of a boy about that date, and witness visited her when she was well enough.—The truth of this statement the complainant emphatically denied, and she expressed her willingness to call her mother and the doctor.—Mr. Cooke considered that the paternity of the child had been proved, and ordered the defendant to pay 2s. a week.

## Clerkenwell.

**STABBING CASE AT ISLINGTON AND ST. PANCRAS.**—George Loom, 30, a labourer, of Bryant Vale, Caledonian-road, Islington, was charged, on a warrant, with wounding Louis Summers.—The complainant said that on the 20th November last he quarrelled with the defendant's wife about some money that she had lent her. The quarrel having terminated, the complainant crossed the road and entered a neighbour's house. While there the defendant knocked at the door, and asked for Mrs. Summers. He was admitted to the passage, and seeing the complainant, the prisoner said, "What have you been saying about my wife?" The complainant replied, "What have I said I will maintain?"—Mr. Plowden: You were present for a row?—Complainant: No, sir, I was not, but no sooner were the words out of my mouth than Loom struck me in the eye with a sharp instrument, and I fell to the ground. My eye was very much injured, and I have permanently lost the sight of it.—Mr. Plowden: Have you been to the hospital?—Witness: Yes.—Mr. Plowden: Did they tell you so there?—Witness: Yes.—The magistrate remanded Loom for the attendance of the medical man who dressed the complainant's eye.—Elizabeth Allen, 33, a charwoman, of 49, Johnston-street, Somers Town, was charged with feloniously cutting and wounding Richard Hunt, a man with whom she was living.—Police-constable 598 Y said he was called to the house and informed that a man had been stabbed. On going to a back room on the second floor he saw the complainant lying on a bed, and Dr. Thompson, divisional surgeon, dressing a wound on his face. An ambulance was procured, and Hunt was removed to the St. Pancras Infirmary, where he now lies. Subsequently, witness arrested Allen in a public-house in Stibbington-street, St. Pancras.—Dr. Thompson described the wound as very serious one. Three arteries were severed, from which the blood was profusely flowing. The bed and floor of the room were covered with blood. By the time Hunt arrived at the infirmary he was nearly dead from loss of blood. That morning he was much better.—Inspector Palmer said that Allen, in answer to the charge, admitted stabbing Hunt, but said it was because he first assaulted her. The room was in a state of disorder, as if a violent struggle had taken place. Two chairs were broken, and a quantity of broken crockery was lying about.—Allen was remanded to take his trial for unlawfully wounding.

TREASURY TO PROSECUTE.—Later in the day the registrar of births and deaths for Mile End applied for permission to see the woman for the purpose of obtaining information of the birth. He had been able to register the death but not the birth, and the house in which Duncan had previously lived was now unoccupied.—Mr. Leashington said he was unable to allow the applicant to see the woman, and so obtain information that might incriminate herself.

**A WIFE'S EloPMENT.**—An elderly man applied to the magistrate for advice under the following circumstances.—On the 15th of November last, while he was at work, his wife left his house, removing with her all his furniture, and thus leaving him utterly destitute. He was unable to trace her until last week, when he found her at a house in Bow. She was living with another man as his wife. He (applicant) had discovered that on the same day on which he left his house she and the man went to live together.—Mr. Leashington said under those circumstances applicant could charge his wife and the man with stealing the furniture.

**TRESPASSING ON THE DUKES OF CAMBRIDGEB'S LAND.**—Charles Airey and John Collis, of Wimbledon, and Allen Baker, of Merton, were summoned to the Kingston-on-Thames County Police Court for having trespassed in search of game on land at Coome Wood, in the occupation of the Duke of Cambridge. Airey was also summoned for assaulting Wells, the head keeper.—They were each fined 2s. 1s. ed., including costs, or a month's imprisonment, with hard labour, for the poaching, and Airey was sent to prison for two months, in addition, for the assault on the keeper.

## West London.

**TIPSYMANIA.**—Mrs. Ellen Reeves, said to be the wife of a medical man, was charged with being drunk and incapable. The prisoner, who was accompanied by her husband, said she was not drunk.—Police-constable 229 F deposed that on Friday afternoon he found the prisoner in Dr. Vere Gardens, Kensington, apparently drunk. With the assistance of another constable he took her to the station.—Mr. Curtis Bennett: Where does she come from?—The Constable: Grosvenor-street. The husband said he was sorry to say the charge was perfectly true. It was tipsymania. It was a mania.—Mr. Curtis Bennett: What are you?—The Husband: A medical man.—Mr. Curtis Bennett fined her 10s.

## Westminster.

**STRUGGLE IN A POLICE CELL.**—A CONSTABLE STRUCK.—Thomas Howard, 26, carter, of Bayonne-road, Fulham, was charged before Mr. Shell with being drunk whilst in charge of a horse and draycart. He was further charged with assaulting a constable of the B Division, named John Shepherd, and maliciously wounding and causing grievous bodily harm to James Eldred, another police officer, by stabbing him in Walton-street (Chelsea) Police Station.—On Friday afternoon prisoner was taken off his draycart in Sydney-street, Chelsea, and on the way to the police station he threw himself down and behaved like a madman, fighting, kicking, and biting at the five officers who conveyed him to the Walton-street Police Station. Shortly before arriving there he put his arm round a lamp-post and sliding on to the pavement, kicked Constable Shepherd in the face with his heavy-nailed boot.

Fortunately the rim of the officer's helmet broke the force of the kick, and he was not seriously hurt.—Constable Eldred, 144 B, deposed that about two o'clock on Friday afternoon he was sent by his inspector to remove the prisoner from one cell to another. A policeman named Smith, with the witness, opened the door, and the prisoner sprang on him with a closed clasp-knife in his hand. They struggled on the floor of the cell, and prisoner managed to open the knife. As witness tried to get it away from him he deliberately stabbed him in the wrist, causing a wound which bled very much.—Dr. Neville, divisional surgeon of police, said the constable's wound was about two inches in extent, and it cut through all the vessels, exposing all the muscles and tendons. Witness stitched it and bandaged it. The stab must have been given with great force, as the knife cut through a great coat and under-tunic.—Mr. Shell: Was it a dangerous wound?—Dr. Neville: It is a very serious wound, and the officer will be disabled for at least a fortnight.—Inspector Taylor said he went to the cell while the struggle was proceeding, and saw the prisoner with the knife in his hand. Witness obtained possession of it, and when he subsequently charged the prisoner with stabbing, he said, "I can only say in excuse that I was drunk."—Mr. Shell: I should like to know how it was that a drunken savage of this description was not properly searched before he was put in the cell. There might have been murder.—Inspector Hobgen: He was searched, sir, while he was kicking and plunging on the floor, and five men were endeavouring to hold him. We did not find the knife in his clothing, and he must have kept it in his clenched hand.—Prisoner, a young man of respectable appearance, who seemed to feel his position, said he was grieved to think that getting drunk had got him into such trouble. He had no recollection of what he had done.—Mr. Shell committed him to the County of London Sessions to take his trial for unlawfully wounding.

## Southwark.

**ALLEGED ATTEMPTED MURDER.**—William Meeks, 52, the proprietor of the Three Compasses public-house, Salisbury-street, Bermondsey, was charged, on remand, with attempting to murder Samuel Grimm, by striking him on the head with a mallet.—The prosecutor stated that he was in partnership with the prisoner. They had always been on the best of terms. About one o'clock on December 20th witness went to bed, and soon fell asleep. After being asleep some time he was awakened by receiving two terrible blows on the head. He raised himself in bed and found the prisoner standing by the side of the bed with a mallet in his hand. Witness managed to jump out of bed, push the prisoner aside, and rush downstairs, but after opening the door, witness fell insensible on the pavement. He remembered no more until he found himself at the police station. He remembered the prisoner saying, when charged, that "he (prisoner) wished he had given him enough, so that he would not be able to get up again."—Prisoner: Well, Sam, I can't make it out. I don't remember striking you, but I suppose I must have done it; there was nobody else in the place to do it. We have always been such pals.—Prosecutor: Yes, Bill, I can't make it out.—Prisoner: We had a nice party the previous day, and we all enjoyed ourselves. I can't make it out.—Prosecutor: No, we have never had a cross word.—A lady-like person, who stated that she was the prisoner's daughter, said her father had been confined for some time in a lunatic asylum, and was discharged in the early part of the present year.—Mr. Slade remanded the prisoner for a week, in order to receive a report from the medical officer who attended the prosecutor as to the injuries received.

## West Ham.

**FIGHT IN A SIGNAL-BOX.**—Frank Reader, 21, a labourer, of Corder-street, Poplar, was charged with assaulting Thomas Humphries, a signalman, and Constables Benbow and Dixon, and further with unlawfully interfering with Humphries in the execution of his duty thereby endangering the lives of passengers on the Great Eastern Railway.—Mr. F. Willis appeared for the defence, but said that he was unable to give any answer to the charge, because it was one of those cases where he was unable to take any instructions from his client, who remembered nothing whatever of the occurrence, and doubtless had been indulging too much.—Humphries, who was the signalman in charge of the signal-box just outside the Custom House Railway Station, said that about six o'clock on Friday evening he saw prisoner and two other men on the line fighting. He called to them, telling them they had no business there, whereupon the prisoner said to his companions, "I'll march to the signal-box." He marched to the signal-box and the prisoner was further remanded to enable the prosecutor to question him.

and mounted the ladder. He attacked Humphries, who, seeing him approach, and knowing there were two trains to pass soon, took the precaution to lock the signal.—The signalman was twice knocked down in the box, and the struggle lasted for about five minutes, two trains meaning while being kept waiting. During the struggle Humphries was several times knocked down, and his eye was out.—Constable Dixon said that when he was called to the spot he was locked in various parts of the body, and Constable Benbow also testified to the violence of the prisoner, who was drunk.—Mr. Willis, for the defence, admitted that the conduct of his client in going into the signal-box was indefensible, but he asked the court to take a merciful view of the case, having regard to the holidays and to the fact that the prisoner himself had been severely handled in the struggle.—Mr. David Howard said that it was a most serious charge, and it could not be too clearly understood that if a man got drunk he had to take on his shoulders all the responsibilities of his acts. Drunkenness was no defence whatever when the prisoner took upon himself to enter a signal-box and to interfere with a public servant, to whose care was entrusted the safety of the lives of hundreds of persons. For the assault on Humphries' prisoner would go to goal for a month, and for the assault on Dixon for another month—two consecutive months.

## Croydon.

**A MARRIED WOMAN IN MALE ATTIRE.**—Jane Russell, 41, described as a married woman, of 20, Sandhurst-road, South Croydon, was charged with cruelly treating her infant daughter, Annie, aged 13 months, and neglecting it so as to cause injury to its health. The child was produced in court. It was thin and emaciated, and was a mere skeleton. The woman came to St. Helen's three or four months ago with a man named Smith. They brought the child with them. The man stopped a few weeks, and then left her. Since that time the prisoner had been seen to strike the child with her fist, to kick it, and throw it on the floor. She left it in the house, neglected to supply it with food, and had been heard to say that she wished it was dead. Seven weeks since it had the measles and when she was advised to take it to the hospital she said it should die before she would take it to the workhouse.—Mary Ann Kennedy, with whom the prisoner had lodged, said she had seen the prisoner strike the child with her clenched fist, and kick it off a stool. When the child had the measles she heard prisoner say she would not take it to the workhouse if it died. If the child cried and she had nothing to give it she turned round and struck it. She scarcely ever gave it a bit of food. Witness had seen her kick it, and a week ago her husband (Mr. Kennedy) struck her because she kicked it.—Dr. M' Nicol said he examined the child on Saturday night. It had two blue marks on the side of the head, apparently caused by a blow or a fall. It had very little flesh upon its bones; it had no organic disease, but was suffering from malnutrition—want of food and care.—The magistrates sent the prisoner to goal for two months, with hard labour.

On Saturday Simpson Kelly, living in Tufton-street, Westminster, upset a kettle of boiling water which was on the fire, and was severely scalded all over the lower part of the body. He was attended to at the local hospital.

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OCTOBER 18TH, says:—"Mr. Attchison's system cannot fail to be greatly appreciated, as he has made the Eyes and the Science of Optics as applied to spectacles his special study, and his credentials are acknowledged by the Royal Society."

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THE FREN



## "THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

There were 1,227 marriages in Dundee in 1889. During the early part of the week a good deal of snow fell in different parts of the country.

During a football match at Weston-super-Mare, between St. Peter's School and Weston Club, Lieutenant Lyon, of Aldershot, who was playing for the first-named team, received a severe concussion of the brain from an accidental kick.

John Williams, cobbler to Sir Richard Bulkeley, two brothers named Owen, and a fourth man, whose name is not known, have been drowned through the capsizing of a boat off Beaumaris.

The trial of the German Socialists has concluded at Elberfeld. Of the ninety-nine persons accused, forty-six were acquitted, and the remainder were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

Mr. Webster, an auctioneer, was conducting a sale at a public-house at Blackheath, Staffordshire, the other night, when he found concealed in the drawer of a washstand he was offering for sale the sum of £248. The effects belonged to a man named Bowater.

An omnibus belonging to the London Road Car Company, proceeding from the Oxford Arms to Lammersmith the other morning, overturned through the snapping of an axle. The outside passengers were thrown upon the pavement, and those inside were cut with broken glass. Several of the injured were taken to the hospital, but only two, who had sustained broken limbs, were detained.

A serious accident has happened at the Porte St. Martin Theatre, at a rehearsal of "Jeanne d'Arc," in which Madame Sarah Bernhardt was taking part. In the scene representing the burning of the heroine at the stake, a man carelessly set all the inflammable matter on fire at once. He was rather seriously burned, but is doing well at the hospital. Madame Bernhardt had a fright, but was not injured.

Seven men were charged at Wolverhampton with poaching and assaulting three of Lord Wrottesley's keepers, with intent to murder them, one being nearly killed. One of the prisoners handed in a written confession that four of the prisoners were present at the affray, and that on their return they stated that they had had a row with Wrottesley's keepers, who would want some plasters.

Robert Monk was, at the Wandsworth Police Court, charged, at the instance of the Postmaster-general, with stealing two letters from pillar-boxes at Clapham. Mr. Osborne, who prosecuted for the Post Office, said that there had been complaints for some time of letters being lost from pillar-boxes in the district. Apparatus for taking letters from the boxes was found on the prisoner, who was committed for trial, bail being refused.

At an inquest held on Hermann Rohl, who was reported to have shot himself on the Metropolitan Railway on Christmas night, evidence was given that on the deceased leaning out of the carriage window, his head came in contact with the door of a guard's brake of a passing train, which a ticket-collector had opened on the wrong side of the train, and the jury, in returning a verdict of accidental death, censured the ticket-collector for his breach of the company's regulations.

An inquest was held at Birmingham on the body of William Evans, a jockey, who died on the 20th ult., under mysterious circumstances. An altercation took place between him and the landlord of a public-house at Balsall Heath. The latter, John Weston, it was alleged, struck Evans twice with a stick as he was leaving the house, and also hit him a heavy blow in the face, with the result that he died shortly afterwards. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Weston.

A serious case has been investigated by the Tenterden magistrates. Thirteen men belonging to the sailing vessel Grandee, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, left Penarth on December 21st, and proceeded to Tharin Roads. They then refused to go to sea, and delayed the ship for a week, causing a loss of about £50 a day. Several of the men made charges against the captain and officers of tyrannical conduct. Eleven were sent to gaol for six weeks, and the two ringleaders for two months.

At an inquest held on the man who threw himself from the Clifton Suspension Bridge, the body was identified as that of Mr. George H. Davis, a gentleman of independent means, who lived at Uckfield, Sussex. He married two years ago, and his wife has since learned that he had been in an asylum. On November 23rd he left home without any explanation, and from time to time sent letters to his wife without addressee. A verdict of suicide during temporary insanity was returned.

James Hayley was charged, at Dalston Police Court, with breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Mr. Farquharson, at Stoke Newington. He evidence showed that the house having been left for a short time unoccupied Mrs. Farquharson turned unexpectedly, when three men, of whom one was a prisoner, was one, rushed out, and he was apprehended. Property worth £50 was found packed ready for removal, and in the prisoner's possession was a skeleton key. He was committed for trial.

Mr. Osswell Livingstone, the last surviving son of Mr. Livingstone, is dead. He had been settled some time in St. Albans as a practising physician. Consumption carried him off. He was buried after Mr. Osswell, one of his father's surviving friends is the old days at Kolobog, with whom, it will be remembered, the great explorer made his memorial journey to Lake Naivasha. The only surviving children of Livingstone now are Mrs. Bruce, of Edinburgh, and Mrs. Wilson, of Kendal.

An inquest has been held at Aldershot on the body of Surgeon Alexander James Struthers, of the Army Medical Staff. He was in the Army about nine years, and was 31 years of age. He had been in the habit of taking morphine for years for a disease contracted abroad, and had so habituated his constitution to the drug as to be able to use thirty shillings' worth in a week. The evidence tended to show that he took an overdose by inadvertence, and a verdict accordingly was returned.

Watson Herriman, aged 84, and Bachael, his wife, aged 79, have been found dead in their bedroom, at Kilham, near Driffield, under shocking circumstances. They had gone to bed on the previous afternoon, and the neighbours, detecting a smell of fire, broke into the house, and discovered the woman dead on the bed, burned all over, and her husband lying dead on the floor. The man was very little burned. Both had died of suffocation. The bed-clothes were reduced to ashes. Deceased had formerly occupied a respectable position as a farmer of his own land.

A shocking fatality has been investigated by the deputy-coroner for East Kent (Mr. H. Fielding). Mr. Farrier, a resident at Sandwich had been missing from his home for some days, and his absence causing uneasiness, inquiries were instituted. He was found to have been at the village of Woodsborough, and on a search being instituted over the neighbouring marshes, his frozen body was discovered in a dyke. Deceased, who was 63 years old, had evidently lost his way in the darkness and been suffocated by falling into the mud and water.

A shocking accident is reported from Havana. A local fire brigade were giving an exhibition in aid of charity, and had erected a rough structure of considerable size, which was to be ignited to represent a burning house. The timbers were in full blaze, and the firemen with ladders and hose, were in the midst of their performance, when the water supply suddenly failed, and many of the men found themselves defenceless among the burning woodwork. Some were badly burned, and fell from elevated positions, to which they had a decrease of £2975.00 from Excise, and £220.00 leaving the public-house they had a struggle, and numbered with their now useless hose pipes. The revenue returns for the three quarters of the financial year ended on Tuesday show an increase of £236,000 in the receipts from customs, £500,000 from stamps, £15,000 from the land tax, £260,000 from the Post Office, £175,000 from the telegraph service, £45,193 from interest on purchase money of Suez Canal shares, &c., and £234,553 from miscellaneous, making a total of £1,685,783. Against this, however, has to be set

all twenty-two were injured, and three have since died.

The gallantry and death of Hugo Grotius, at the age of 18, are worthy to be placed on record. The boy rescued four companions who had fallen through some ice at Hamburg, but was himself drowned.

It seems that wherever the European goes he must carry with him the fatal vice of drink. It is not pleasant to be told that the state of Zanzibar town after dark is dangerous, owing to the number of drinking shops, and that the greatest offenders against the peace are drunken Europeans.

A few days ago a gentleman bought a collie dog from a butcher in Chirnside, and sent it by train to a friend in Leith. The dog arrived safely, but the first day it was taken out it bolted, and next day turned up at its old home in Chirnside, having travelled about fifty miles.

A scheme is in preparation for increasing the water supply of Paris. At present the total supply for both domestic and municipal uses is but twenty-two gallons per head per day, and it is proposed to increase it to fifty-five. The new supply is to be obtained by impounding the head waters of the Vigne and Vernou.

It is stated that Mr. Abbott guarantees seventy-five concerts to Otto Hegner, and pays him £200 for each appearance. £6,000 for a single tour is not bad for a boy of 12. It should stimulate the production of prodigies—and spoil the market.

"Well if it does," laconically remarks the Musical Times.

The usual watch night services were held on New Year's Eve at many of the churches and chapels of the metropolis. Perhaps the most remarkable among them was that at St. Albans, Holborn, where the midnight congregation was composed mainly of the rougher element among the population resident in that district.

Charles Frederick Featherstone, a butcher, doing a large business in the poorer part of the city, was at the Worcester City Police Court sentenced to two months' hard labour for exposing for sale meat unfit for human food. Medical men who had examined the meat said they had never seen meat so emaciated.

Mr. Morton C. Fisher, a well-known American engineer, resident in London, was found dead in his bed, at his chambers, the other morning. He was heard breathing laboriously at eleven a.m., and on his door being forced, at one o'clock, he was found to be dead. Mr. Fisher constructed, among other works, the North Metropolitan

tramway system.

Sir E. Watkin, presiding at a meeting of the Channel Tunnel Company disclaimed any jealousy towards the scheme for a bridge over the Channel.

He read a letter from Lord Wolseley, expressing the opinion that there would be infinitely less objection to a bridge over than to a tunnel under the Channel, and said he should be glad to hear the grounds for that opinion.

The Clothworkers' Company scholarship of £130, and five years' free training at the City Guilds and Central Institution (Technical Institute) at South Kensington, awarded for proficiency in English, elementary mathematics, drawing, physics (including chemistry and mechanics), has been taken by Philip Sagerman, aged 14 years.

The Philadelphia Ledger tells this story:—An Englishman who came to this country thirty years ago, leaving a wife at home to whom he soon after ceased writing, was amazed one Sunday at his boarding-house in Cohoes, N.Y., by coming face to face with her. They eyed each other for a moment and then embraced. She had been searching for years for him, going from town to town all over the country.

Walter Foulger, a young man whose mind is supposed to have been unsettled by a love affair, has shot himself through the head with a revolver. He was found lying in a stable on his father's farm at Thorpe, Essex, with the revolver lying by his side and a bullet over his legs. This latter circumstance at first gave rise to suspicions of foul play, but the surgeon states that the wound was evidently self-inflicted.

The new year was celebrated in Glasgow with unusual gusto, the working classes crowding to see the pantomimes, of which numerous performances were given. The poor were entertained throughout the city. Several accidents were reported. James Bell fell from the top of an omnibus and was seriously injured. James Alexander, Jessie McDonald, and Helen McKay were all knocked down by vehicles and hurt.

On charges of house-breaking and of assaulting Detective-sergeant Dicker, a labourer named White, otherwise Jones, was brought before Mr. Bagshaw, at West Ham, and committed for trial. It was stated that the accused was arrested on the original charge in July last, and that he escaped from the waiting-room of the court-house. He denied that he was ever in the court before, but was unable to call witnesses in his defence.

A strange man suddenly appeared before Mrs. Catharine Boyd while she was alone in her home at New Brunswick, N.J., and proposed for her hand, remarking at the same time that he had heard she was a widow and meant business, and drawing from his pocket as he spoke a revolver. Mrs. Boyd went to "tidy up." She, however, returned with a revolver, with which she so emphasized her refusal of the offer that the suitor was evidently glad to take his departure.

The dead body of a lad named Greaney was found a few nights ago at Drumcullin, a short distance from Castle Island, lying on the roadside with a rope round the neck, there being evidence of strangulation. The deceased was a brother of a witness in the Daly murder trial, now proceeding at Tullamore. It is believed that the deceased, who was about sixteen years of age, has met with foul play. A young man named Connor has been arrested.

This is the story of a public-house tragedy which occurred in Maryland.—Joseph Kaffer, Charles Rose, and Charles Hart went into William Zorn's saloon, in Canton, for drinks. A difficulty arose over the payment, and Zorn, pulling out a razor, sliced off Kaffer's nose, also slashing his cheek and hand. Kaffer's companions caught Zorn, but the latter broke away, and, getting a breech-loading gun, shot Kaffer and Hart in the legs. Zorn reloaded, and succeeded in shooting Rose in the head and stomach. All three men were seriously wounded.

A curious story is told in a native Indian paper. In Bangkok, no one who is not a landowner is allowed to take out a license for a gun. A turner, who applied for a license, found his landless condition an apparently effectual bar to its being granted. But the ability of the legal profession to drive a coach and six through an Act of Parliament is proverbial, and the turner did not tamely submit to be thwarted by a mere regulation. He bought a freshold six feet by three in the Burmese cemetery, and is now the proud possessor of both land and license.

The curious custom at Queen's College, Oxford, of presenting a needle and thread to each of the guests at a banquet, in a pious memorial of the founder, Robert Eglesfield, on whose name "sigilla et filii" forms a kind of rubric. The story goes that Henry IV. (whose son, afterwards Henry V., was a somewhat riotous member of the institution), complained to the authorities of the expense and wastefulness of the college, wherein the youthful prince made his next appearance before his Royal father with needles hanging from the eyelet holes of his doublet, in order to bear testimony to his newly-resolved thrift.

A shocking accident is reported from Havana. A local fire brigade were giving an exhibition in aid of charity, and had erected a rough structure of considerable size, which was to be ignited to represent a burning house. The timbers were in full blaze, and the firemen with ladders and hose, were in the midst of their performance, when the water supply suddenly failed, and many of the men found themselves defenceless among the burning woodwork. Some were badly burned, and fell from elevated positions, to which they had a decrease of £2975.00 from Excise, and £220.00 leaving the public-house they had a struggle, and numbered with their now useless hose pipes. The revenue returns for the three quarters of the financial year ended on Tuesday show an increase of £236,000 in the receipts from customs, £500,000 from stamps, £15,000 from the land tax, £260,000 from the Post Office, £175,000 from the telegraph service, £45,193 from interest on purchase money of Suez Canal shares, &c., and £234,553 from miscellaneous, making a total of £1,685,783. Against this, however, has to be set

together £1,195,000, and reduces the net increase for the nine months to £240,783.

The Duke of Connaught intends to spend a month in Canada next year.

Chief-constable Williamson's widow will receive a grant of £200 from the Royal Bounty Fund.

The words of Moore's "Sweet Vale of Avoca" have been sold to an English company of £1,800.

The Princess of Wales has consented to receive the purse to be presented by ladies at the opening of the Royal Military Exhibition in May.

The late King of Portugal is stated to have had eleven physicians attending him at the time of his death.

The Empress Frederick sent to the Prince of Wales this Christmas a splendid present, consisting of a unique silver liqueur service.

The extensive thread works of Messrs. William Barbour and Sons, Lisburn, near Belfast, have been partially destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at £22,000.

A Birmingham gentleman attempted to cross the line at King's Heath in front of a train proceeding to Birmingham. His temerity cost him his life. He was literally cut in two.

In India a preparation called cinchona febrifuge is manufactured on the Government cinchona plantations, which is a satisfactory substitute for quinine, and costs much less.

So violent was the rage which raged the other day at Trieste, that ropes had to be fastened to the street posts to prevent the people from being blown into the sea.

Prince Bismarck is said to have again received from the Emperor a handsome Christmas gift, accompanied by a most gracious autograph letter of congratulation.

It is probable that Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's new opera, "The Gondoliers," will be brought out in Berlin in a German dress before the end of February.

A medical practitioner named Hirschfeld, who has just died at Graz, at the venerable age of 103 years, ascribed his longevity to the fact of his having been born at sea.

A fire occurred the other morning in a dwelling-house at Huron, a town in Michigan, in which a whole family of eleven persons were burned to death.

The steamship City of Paris has arrived at Queenstown from New York, having accomplished the voyage in 8 days 22 hours. 50 min. This is the fastest eastward passage, and boats by seven minutes the best record of the same vessel.

Silas Jones was a coloured barber of Owensboro, Kentucky. In a fit of drunken mania he entered the shop of a white man named Westerfield, and shot him dead. He soon paid the penalty for his crime; an irate mob lynched him.

The salaries of the county officials at Presburg (Hungary) were not paid on Tuesday last, owing to the cashier having abandoned. All the ready cash, amounting to £70,000, was found to have been abstracted, but securities deposited to the value of £1,000,000 had not been touched.

An Englishman, calling himself Wyle, was arrested in Berlin the other day on suspicion of having been an accomplice of the man who swindled the Diskonto Gesellschaft in 1887 by impersonating Mr. Scott, then First Secretary at the British Embassy at Berlin.

The new Academy of Music in course of construction at St. Louis collapsed the other day after reaching as high as the third storey.

There were fifty workmen employed on the building, and a number of them were crushed beneath the fallen walls.

Within the last few months the sale of Australian wine in London has assumed extraordinary proportions. At many retail merchants' the produce of Bordeaux was only disposed of during Christmas week, after the whole stock of grape juice from the antipodes had been exhausted.

The constitutionality of the New York law, providing for the execution of criminals by electricity, has been affirmed in general terms by the Supreme Court. It is possible that the case may be carried to the Court of Appeals, which is the court of last resort, but it is not probable.

A dreadful disaster has occurred at Villaldeola, Mexico, during the progress in the Colosseum of a bull fight. The performance was going on in the arena, and the attention of all present was fixed thereon, when a large part of the building suddenly collapsed. About 100 persons were injured, some of whom have since died, and others will not, it is feared, recover.

The Melbourne Argus states that a misfortune has befallen Mr. Saultry, the baritone, in connection with the management of the magnificent work he has done in that city. He has received scarcely any money for his services since his return from Queensland, and the same remark applies to Madame Christian. Signor Hasco, who so ably conducted at the concerts, is, it is stated, unpaid.

At Borriano, Queen's county, a man, named Quinn, was charged with the murder of his aged mother. It was alleged for the prosecution that the prisoner brutally maltreated the old woman, broke several of her teeth, and knocked out some of her teeth. The woman died from the effects of the injuries, and Quinn was committed for trial on the capital charge.

A panic has occurred in the cathedral of Temesvar, in Hungary. As the congregation were dispersing after mass they were alarmed by the report of firearms. A young man was discovered lying dead at one of the side altars, holding a revolver in his hand. Extreme poverty had driven him to commit suicide. The cathedral was closed, and will not be opened until it has been re-consecrated.

The Yorkshire coalowners, commencing with the new year, advanced all classes of house coal 10d. or 1s. per ton. Manufacturing fuel was similarly increased in value, small coal and coke being quoted much higher in proportion, owing to the scarcity of that description. The higher prices were imposed to cover the 10 per cent. extra wage given to the miners, who are now receiving 30 per cent. more than in November, 1888.

The Prince of Wales gave his Royal and other guests at Sandringham a good day's cover shooting. Among those out were Prince George, the Duke of Cambridge, the Hereditary Prince of Hohenlohe-Langenberg, Count Mervordoff, the Duke of Fife, the Marquis of Hartington, Lord Randolph Churchill, and Sir Henry James. The Princesses of Wales, accompanied by Princesses Louise (Duchess of Albany), Victoria, and Maud, and the lady guests, drove out and lunched with the Royal and distinguished sportsmen.

The scheme for the construction of the City and North London Subway Railway, of which Parliamentary notice was given last month, has, it is understood, been abandoned, and will not therefore proceed with next session. The proposed railway was to have commenced by a junction at London Bridge with the authorised City of London and Southwark Subway, from whence it would have passed, and Moorgate-street, to King William-street, to its termination in the City-road, Islington.

The National Rifle Association have applied to the Board of Trade for a provisional order to empower them to construct a tramway from a junction with the South-Western Railway, near Brook

## TURF, FIELD, AND RIVER.

By LARRY LYNN.

Now that we have passed the Rubicon of 1889, and landed in the opening year of another decade, it behoves us to look ahead, for a busy campaign of sport lies before us on turf, on field, and on river alike. The echoes of the bells that rang out the old year and rang in the new have died away, and with them have perished backers' vain reveries concerning the good things they did not touch and came off, and the presumed good things they did touch which did not come off. Heavily takes the place of regret in the ever-cheery panter's breast, and when the time arrives he will come up smiling once more to contest the battle of odds with his natural foal, the irreproachable bookie. In the course of the coming week we shall be significantly reminded of the future, for the Lincoln entries close on January 15th, and for the next issue of the People they will be ripe for discussion. In the present column, however, I propose to look further afield than Lincoln, and, following the practice familiar to sporting writers, register a winter tip for the coming Derby.

With the rime on the trees and the white frost in possession of the earth, it seems a far away cry to verdant, yet wintry, Epsom in the leafy month of June. Yet we travel apace in these times, and I dare swear those of us who live to see the 11th contest for the "Blue Riband" of the turf fought out on Wednesday, the 16th of June, will find that day upon them sooner than they expect, for old Father Time is a rare mover. The Derby bids fair to be a remarkable one in every respect, and is bound to leave its mark in turf story. In the first place, it appears in its new guise, bolstered up after the fashion of the Sandown and Kempton method of creating a big stake for this year it is worth £50,000—that is, £30,000 for the winner, £500 for the winner's nominator, £300 for the second horse, and £300 for the third. In the second place, we are likely to see the most phenomenal lot of three-year-olds running since the famous Ormonde and Blair Athol years; in the third place, the fight for Derby laurels bids fair to be a very open one, and not such a one-horse affair as it has been regarded in most recent years; and, in the fourth place, additional interest is imparted to the race from the fact that the two Australian colts, Kirkham and Narallian, will try their luck against the pick of our English equine flock, and for the first time we shall be enabled to make sound, reliable calculations as to the merits of Australian and English first-class thoroughbreds.

Taking the pick of the Derby horses alphabetically, Alloway naturally commands first attention. This great lumbering son of Springfield is not a favourite of mine, and doubt if his conformation will be suited by the Surrey gradients. His best show last season was in the Champsagne Stakes at Doncaster, where he finished close up to Erievia and Le Nord. But the Springfield do not, as a rule, improve with age, and I fancy that time will prove this big-legged bay to be more of a sprinter than a stayer. Passing from the A's to the B's, a half may be made at the name of Bel Demontois, whose victory over Miser Davis and Heresy—who was, by the way, giving him 1lb., exclusive of sex allowance—at Liverpool and his win at Doncaster, scarcely make him out class enough for a Derby horse. Delaval, a half-brother to Melton, trained by Dick Marsh, has run once, on which occasion he was unplaced to Le Nord in the Dewhurst Plate, and that form says little in his favour. Devilish is not a Derby horse, and Far Niente has so far shown himself more remarkable for speed than the stamina which is requisite to set a horse home winner of a Derby. Fontainebleau is hardly likely to follow in the footsteps of his ancestor, Voltigeur, by landing the Aske spots victorious, as did the famous son of Voltaine in 1850, and if a St. Simon colt is to do the trick, I shall look among others of his stock engaged in the race.

To Sunderland the Corinthians journeyed next, where they met Durham County. Here once more the fortune of war went against them, as Brahma was hurt after twenty minutes' play, and the Corinthians only played ten men for the rest of the game. In the first ten minutes Durham scored a goal, and winning one more after a hard fight, the Corinthians sustained their second defeat by two goals to none. At Glasgow, however, on Wednesday, they met the formidable unbeaten Queen's Park team, and beat that previously unbeaten combination by four goals to one, the Scotchmen being outpaced throughout.

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smart performances of his stable companion, the clinking Riviera, whose deeds tell their own story, but it is remembered, the best fillies ever foaled—witness Achievement, for example—are occasionally "kittie kattle" in the early summer. Of the two Australian half-brothers, Kirkham and Narallian, nothing can be definitely written, as neither has appeared in public. They seem to be built on the wear-and-tear principle, and if set to blood-like in appearance as the pick of our public testimonial, which now amounts to nearly

own juveenae cracks, there are no suspicions of their soundness. I cannot, in face of the phenomenal lot of classic youngsters we have in training now, recommend either of these sons of Chester, who are set a big task when asked to try conclusions with such as Surefoot, Le Nord, Heame, and company.

Martagon, a son of Bend Or and stable companion to Alloway, has certainly not fulfilled his early promise, but I think he has more of the makings of a Derby horse in his shape and looks than Springfield's son. Master Astley is trained at George Dawson's, but as he has never run in public, and has no recommendation beyond being a full brother to Melton, I can say nothing in his favour. Loup is equally no stayer, and of Jewell's lot Ostrogoth and Rathbeal have not, so far, shown themselves to be of the type of Derby winners. Eight Away and Orwell, with Golden Gate, are both trained at Kingsclere, and of this trio the former is generally regarded as better. A son of Wisdom, he has shown himself a colt of no little merit, having won five out of seven fulfilled engagements; whilst, on the other hand, Orwell has given most curious in-and-out running. His best performance was to run Signoria to a head at Sandown Park, and possibly that punishing finish has never been forgotten by the Duke of Westminster's colt.

Surefoot's form places him pretty well at the top of the tree in Derby calculations, as Signoria is not entered in that race. He won all but one of his four engagements, and although Semolina got home in front of him at Ascot, it is highly improbable that the Duke of Portland's game little will ever occupy such a position again. In the three races he has won Surefoot has beaten, among others, such cracks as Heresy, Heame, and Far Niente. In Jossiffe's hands Wisdom's son may be expected to do credit to himself and his backers. He is a mailing good colt, and, despite the rumours afloat concerning his temper, I shall take Surefoot as my winter selection for the Derby, and regard Le Nord as his most dangerous opponent.

Footballers have had a busy time of it during the past few days, and within the next few weeks the winter game will be at its zenith. The Corinthians on their Northern tour began badly. After the splendid victory they gained over Preston North End in the memorable match at Richmond some weeks ago, there seemed every probability of their gaining a second triumph when they met the Association Cup-holders last Saturday week. But the Corinthians found the deep and heavy turf at Deepdale a very different battle ground to that afforded by the fast and springy grass at Richmond. It checked the rush of their forwards, and thus to a certain extent broke up the completeness of their combination. The ground at Deepdale on this occasion was hardened by the overnight frost, and although it did not seriously interfere with the game, it was not in a condition to favour really brilliant play. Both sides played strong elevens, the Corinthians putting ten international players in the field. The Corinthians had to play against the wind, and North End at the outset were dangerous, as after twice nearly getting a goal they scored, thanks to N. J. Ross, and the latter scored again before half-time, so that on resuming Preston North End were two goals to nil. Ross, on recommending, was early injured, and had to retire, and then Graham, who collided with Cotterill as the latter charged, had the misfortune to break his collar-bone, and had to be taken to the infirmary. Despite these drawbacks Preston only lost one goal, and in the end won by two goals to one. When the game was over Ross, senior, who had resumed play, was taken to a doctor, who ordered him to bed, as his right shoulder was badly injured.

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2400, and also all the details connected with the Pelican belt and proposed presentation purse, why should we not be made acquainted with the name of the individual who has posed as Slavin's good fairy? In these days of modern advertising it is not the fashion to do good by stealth, and Slavin himself will do well to publish this benefactor's name. Slavin himself could, I dare swear, give a correct guess at the name of the man who paid the roughs to assault him. As he seems out of all the people mixed up in the affair to be the only individual possessing any pluck, he should speak out and unmask this scandal. By so doing he would greatly benefit the interests of British sport.

## MURDER BY A MOTHER AT WOOD GREEN.

At Wood Green, Eliza Whorlow, wife of a cyclist's salesman, living at 1, Granville-Terrace, Lordship-lane, Wood Green, on Wednesday entered the police station, and stated that she had killed her little boy by cutting his throat. She was detained, and the police immediately proceeded to the house. The door was opened by a sister of Mrs. Whorlow, who, in reply to questions put to her, said she knew nothing of the matter. The husband was at once aroused, he being in bed, and, together with the police, they went to a bedroom at the top of the house, where they were horrified to find that the woman's statement was correct. The boy, who is stated to be 8 years old, had been lying in bed, with his throat cut, quite dead. Asleep beside him was a girl aged 13, who, when roused, told the police she had heard nothing of the occurrence. A razor stained with blood was found on the table near the bed, and the clothes were saturated with blood.

## POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

At the Edmonton Petty Sessions on Thursday, before Alderman Letham, Mr. Joseph Howard, M.P., and other justices, the prisoner, Eliza Whorlow, aged 48 years, was charged with feloniously killing her son, Harold Ernest, aged 8 years, by cutting his throat with a razor. Mr. John Avery, solicitor, defended the accused, who was accommodated with a seat in the dock. She remained veiled and silent throughout the hearing, and did not appear to hear the evidence or to recognise the gravity of the charge brought against her. The first witness called was acting-sergeant Holder, who deposed that at eight o'clock on the previous morning the prisoner came into Wood Green Police Station, and, without any solicitation, gave her name, age, and address, and said that she wished to give herself up for murdering her little boy by cutting his throat. She was detained, and Police-constable Matcham was sent to her home to make inquiries. Matcham, who was next called, stated that as directed he went to the scene of the crime. In the presence of prisoner's husband and a female relative, he entered an attic, in which he found a bed, on the furniture of which there was blood. A little girl, named Annie Whorlow, got out of the bed, and he saw the dead body of a boy lying across the bed, under the clothes, with a wound on the left side of his neck. A razor stained with blood lay on a table in the room. Mr. Avery asked both witnesses if they noticed a strangeness in the court of the accused when she came to the station, and the sergeant replied that she seemed despondent, and the constable thought she appeared out of her mind. The bench remanded the case pending the inquest.

## A MURDERER'S LETTER.

Haunting his Mother-in-Law.

West, the travelling showman, who was executed the other day for the murder of his wife at Leeds (as described in another column), wrote a farewell letter to one of his Derby acquaintances. It is addressed, "Mr. Thomas Lambert, East Street, Morlidge, Derby," and is written on the ordinary prison note paper. It is not signed by the writer, but bears the initials of the governor of the goal, and is couched in the following terms—"Saturday, December 23, 1889.—dear friend I write these few lines to you hoping to find you in good health, as it leaves me at present in as good health and spirits as possible and my time is short now and I shall be glad when it is over and done with as my life as bean nothing but misery to me now for the sixteen months now ever since I first found my wife out about her doings and her witcheralling old thing of a mother as caused all our trouble but I don't care I am very glad to think that I know the going of my dear wife and I have had her buried as nice and as respectable as any body could be and as comfortable as can be and they hav got plenty of my money to put up a nice grave stone and they hav got her insuranc money as well I heard that they was telling people that they paid for my wife funeral but you can tell them that it was with my money as I gave my son Robert twenty pound to com and see my dear wife buried and pay for overey think as I knew they would be telling every body but I thought I would not give them the chance to talk a bout me. I thought they should not talk about neather me nor my family as I have paid for every think as hav been done respecting my wifes funeral and I want you to show this letter to Miss Ill (Mrs. Hill) as was at the douran ox and giv my cind love to her and his husband and his son Josh and ambeiy lathom and begay shaw, and Joseph mansfield and old friends, and wish them al god bye for now and for ever and except the same your selves and all your sons and daughters and if they dont put up a nice stone get on to them and tell them that you know that the money was left a purpose and all the thing i have willed to my three little children as I thought the other thre was old a new to sea to them selves now so now I must conclude with my cind love to wos and al of you for now and for ever so god nite and god bless you al and I have heard talk about people being haunted and if possible I will haunt my wifes mother and lester Jack as long as they live I can and I hope her mother will have sumthin happen her before long for what she have brought me and my wife to as my dear wife would a been alive now and as comfortable as possible to have bean if it not been for his old withcrafting old thing of a mother."

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## TO CORRESPONDENTS.&lt;/div

## "IN THE SWIM."

BY A CITY SHARE.  
It seems likely, from present appearances, to prove an anxious period in speculative history. All the omens of the hour are favourable. While the revenue returns demonstrate that our trade is advancing by leaps and bounds, the continent has fallen into a condition of really remarkable quiescence. There is not a single breathing of war from St. Petersburg to Paris; one might even imagine, indeed, that Russia and France had joined the League of Peace. How long this blessed state of affairs will last is beyond human foresight to determine. Wars break out suddenly and it is quite within the bounds of possibility that the Czar may be preparing to spring an unpleasant surprise on Christendom at no distant date. Those, however, who are most conversant with the inner working of foreign politics, make no secret of their conviction that Russia will not break the peace unless offered very strong provocation. Be that as it may, the present situation is peaceful all round, and were the Bulgarian question only settled, every cause for misgiving would be removed. Our little quarrel with Portugal counts for nothing as a disturbing factor, while France's anxiety to get us out of Egypt is no keener than it was last year or the year before. It is, however, the auspicious condition of our home affairs that affords the best warrant for anticipating another upward movement on the Stock Exchange. All the manufacturing districts and every great industrial centre tell the same tale—thrush business, full employment, good profits, higher wages. In a word, all classes are doing well, with the result that the spending power of the nation is far greater than it was. Clearly, therefore, there ought to be an increased demand for investment securities, with a corresponding enhancement of their marketable value. It may be said, perhaps, that the better sorts are already so high as to forbid a further advance. That is not my opinion; I believe that before the end of 1890 English and American rails, and a few foreign securities, will move upwards to a really considerable extent. New Consols and India 3 per cent. should also have an important rise, nor will colonial Government securities be without their patrons. But such outside markets as nitrates and gold mines will be governed, as usual, by their own laws—the laws of the gambling-table. For neither have I any particular fancy; they are the sort of iron that lead to burnt fingers. Nor need the speculator venture on to such dangerous ground; he has plenty of choice in safer fields. Among English rails, for instance, Great Western, Midland, District, and Sheffield Deferred have a decidedly promising appearance; while in Yanks, Louisville, Lake Shore, and Wabash are well worth buying. South American bonds are under a cloud by reason of the Brazilian revolution and the Argentine financial crisis. But this loss of prestige does not extend to Central America, where I specially note Columbian, Ecuador, and Guatemala as a hopeful triplet for speculative investment. I also nail my colours to Costa Rica as an investment improving in intrinsic worth every year.

## AN ELEPHANT'S SACACITY.

The stories illustrating the sagacity of the elephant are innumerable; but few are more remarkable than the following one, recorded by a writer in a Bombay paper, upon the authority of an artillery officer, who was a witness of the incident:—The battering train going to the siege of Seringapatam had to cross the sandy bed of a river that resembles other rivers in the East, which leave during the summer season but a small stream of water running through them, though their beds are mostly of considerable breadth, very heavy for draught and abounding in quicksand. It happened that an artilleryman, who was seated on the tumbler of one of the guns, by some accident fell off in such a situation that in a minute or two the hind wheel must have gone over him. The elephant, which was stationed behind the gun, perceiving the predicament in which the man was, instantly, without any warning from its keeper, lifted up the wheel with its trunk, and kept it suspended till the carriage had passed clear of him.

## AN INFLUENZA CURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "PEOPLE."  
Sir.—I venture to send for insertion in your valuable paper a certain cure for influenza. Being in the island of Corfu many years since I was seized with violent pains in my head and limbs (the small-pox raging at the time I thought I had caught it). I consulted a clever Maltese doctor, who told me I had a severe attack of influenza, and unless I strictly obeyed his orders I must die. In a bath of hot water put two handfuls of salt, place the bath close to the bedside, undress, throw a blanket over you so as to cover the bath, making the vapour rise to the body; stir in two ounces of strong mustard from a chemist. Get a Dover powder of ten grains, or stronger, according to the constitution. Keep your feet in the bath from seven to ten minutes, then let someone wrap them in the blanket, turn the patient into bed, and take the powder, also a glass of rum and hot water; keep covered up to let the perspiration continue till morning. Then put on everything clean. If this is strictly followed I have never known it fail. When I awoke next morning all pain was gone, and although very weak I had quite recovered in two or three days.—Yours, &c., E. BRUNKE.

## POST OFFICE SUPERCHILOUSNESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "PEOPLE."  
Sir.—To give you and the numerous readers of your paper some idea how the authorities of the General Post Office treat their clerks, subordinates, and the general public at large, I should like to be allowed to state the following:—On the 6th of December I professionally attended one of the clerks in the Receiver and Accountant's Office, who was suffering from pleurisy. The usual treatment of rest, warmth, &c., was prescribed, and a certificate of inability to attend to his duties was immediately forwarded to the proper quarters. No further notice of the case was taken until five days after, when the pleurisy had time to subside. He was then summoned to attend at the G.P.O. and be examined by one of their medical officers. He was examined, and was told shortly after that he had no such disease, or any other affection which would prevent him from attending to his work, that he would in all probability be discharged, and, although he had then served eighteen years, that the matter of granting him a pension would be for their serious consideration. It consequence of this, next morning I took my patient to Sir Andrew Clark, M.D., and although six days had then elapsed, Sir Andrew was without difficulty able to detect positive signs of disease. I at once wrote to the receiver and accountant, informing him of what had been done, and Sir Andrew's certificate was then sent out. No notice whatever was taken of my communication, not even an acknowledgment. After the lapse of another week I wrote to Sir S. A. Blackwood, the secretary, informing him of all I had done, and he was courteous enough to order that a printed form should be sent me, saying he had received mine; but as I have since heard nothing more about it, I suppose a decision has been arrived at that they do not consider me worth taking any notice of, and that my appeal for some explanation must rest in oblivion. It may be said I am not acting professionally by making these facts known; but if, as in such a case as mine, the certificates of medical men have been ignored and rejected, are we to pass it over without any notice? And if so, what then is to become of the poor hard-working clerk, who is, perhaps, not a favourite in his office, and whose life is a mere drudgery, if they are to be thrown aside at will, after the greater part of their lives have been spent in hard work, health injured, little, if any money, and no recompense? As I only act the part of a human being, I hope it will be sufficient apology to the medical profession and others for taking the obligatory steps I have done.—Yours, &c., T. J. MITCHELL, SURGEON.

*Mosher Green, Esq.*

## AGES OF EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNS.

The Almanach de Gotha gives an interesting table showing the ages of the several reigning sovereigns of Europe, and the duration of their reign. Omitting the small German States, we find that the oldest among reigning princes is Leo XIII., who is 72-3 years old, and has reigned nearly 12 years. Next comes William III., King of the Netherlands, 72 years old, having reigned 40 years; next Christian IX., King of Denmark, 71 years old, with 26 years of reign; then Queen Victoria, 70 years old, with 52 years of reign; Karl I., of Wurttemberg, 66-2 years old, with 25 years of reign; Frederick, Grand Duke of Baden, 65 years old, with 38 years of reign; Albert, King of Saxony, 61 years old, with 16 years of reign; Oscar II., King of Sweden, 60 years old, with 17 years of reign; Francis Joseph of Austria, 58 years old, having reigned 41 years; Leopold II., King of the Belgians, 54 years old, having reigned 24 years; Louis, Grand Duke of Hesse, 52 years old, with 13 years of reign; Charles, King of Roumania, 50 years old, with a reign of 22-3 years since the beginning of his government; Nicholas, Prince of Montenegro, 48 years old, with a reign of 29 years; Abdul Hamid, the Sultan, 47 years old, with 15 years of reign; Humbert I., King of Italy, 45 years old, with a reign of nearly 12 years; Alexander III., Russia, 44 years old, with a reign of 6 years; George I., King of Greece, 44 years old, with a reign of 26 years; Otto, King of Bavaria, 41 years old; William II., German Emperor, nearly 31 years old, with 18 years of reign; Carlos I., of Portugal, 26 years old, two months of reign; Alexander I., of Servia, 13-1 years old, nine months of reign; Alfonso XIII., of Spain, 31 years old, with 28 years of reign.

## NOTICE

To avoid loss of time and inconvenience, all communications on business matters should be addressed to the MANAGER, and not to the EDITOR.

## PERSONAL.

CLARA.—Please send your Address to ERNEST, care of Mr. W. Spiers, Deedes-road, Fulham, London.

A BACHELOR, 22, would correspond with a fair young lady of respectability.—Full particulars to LENNOX, 61, Chandos-street, Strand, W.C.

H ENRY HOLLAND WARD, late of Milton-road, Dulwich, may have of something beneficial on applying to Mr. C. ADAMS, 16, Cowley-road, North Kensington.

A DAD PARTNER wanted, aged 25, with about £4000 a year, to establish a business.—Apply to Mr. A. Letters to A. B. V., 26, Lower Kensington-lane, S.E.

F EMILY MOORE.—Should this meet the eye of Emily Moore, late of Paradise-street, Lambeth Walk, and employed in one of the West-end hotels, apply to GAYLOR, 54, Vassall-street, E.C. for her advantage.

SPECIAL PREPAID RATES.

ADVERTISEMENTS RELATING TO Situations Wanted or Vacant, Houses or Apartments for Let or Wanted, Goods, &c., for Sale. Lost or Found, &c., &c.

ARE CHARGED AT A SPECIAL LOW RATE OF 1/- FOR 16 WORDS

6d. PER LINE, OR EIGHT WORDS, AFTER.

These rates apply only to private or individual announcements, and are not intended for advertisements of the above descriptions when sent by the advertiser in his trade or professional character. Prepayment is indispensable.

## SITUATIONS WANTED.

G Eneral SERVANT, age 20, neat-looking, respectable country girl, can plain cook, good personal character, wages 5/-, Mrs. Hetherington's, 16, Mile End-road, W.

G Eneral SERVANT, age 18, tall, strong girl, able to do good work, wages 5/-, Mrs. H. Hetherington's, 16, Mile End-road, W.

G Eneral SERVANT, age 14, fond of children, 13 months' character, £2. 6d. weekly.—Kilns, T., Hetherington's, 16, Queen's-road, Finsbury.

G Eneral SERVANT, age 14, able to do little cooking, 15 months' character, £2. 6d. Alice Hetherington's, 16, St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction.

G Eneral SERVANT, age 18, able to do cooking and washing, £2. 6d. weekly.—Mrs. H. Hetherington's, 16, Queen's-road, W.

G Eneral SERVANT, age 18, 10 months' character, £2. 6d. weekly.—Mrs. H. Hetherington's, 16, Queen's-road, W.

G Eneral SERVANT, age 18, good needlewoman, respectable, 3 years and 10 months' character, wages 5/-, Mrs. H. Hetherington's, 16, Queen's-road, W.

G Eneral SERVANT, age 18, strong bright girl, knowledge of cooking and willing to do washing, 15 months' character, wages 5/-.—Appy. Mary, Hetherington's, 16, Mile End-road.

G Eneral SERVANT, age 18, tall, neat, fond of children, 15 months' character, £2. 6d. weekly.—Mrs. H. Hetherington's, 16, Queen's-road, W.

G Eneral SERVANT, age 18, 10 months' character, £2. 6d. weekly.—Alice Hetherington's, 16, Queen's-road, W.

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**THE GAS STRIKE.**  
The Charge of Inciting to Murder  
Mr. Livesey.

Henry George Wier, described as a composite, was charged at Bow-street Police Court on Thursday, on remand, with having on December 22nd, at a meeting of divers persons assembled in Hyde Park, unlawfully incited, encouraged, persuaded, and proposed the murder of a certain person, to wit, one George Livesey. Mr. Forrest Fulton, instructed by Sir A. K. Stephen and Mr. Pollard, prosecuted on behalf of the Treasury; Mr. H. Lynn defended; Mr. Beale watched the case on behalf of the London Society of Compositors. — Mr. Forrest Fulton said he was instructed by the public prosecutor to prefer a charge against the defendant under the 16th section of the Offences Against the Person Act, which provided for the punishment of persons for conspiring to commit or encouraging, or persuading to murder by the infliction of a term of imprisonment, the maximum being ten years. The facts were simple.—For some few weeks past a strike of gas-workers had existed in the South of London. In pursuance of their undoubted legal rights, they held meetings in Hyde Park on Sunday, the 22nd ult., consisting of distinct processions numbering from two to four thousand persons. They were accompanied by bands and persons carrying banners. Four platforms were erected in different portions of the park. At No. 4 Mr. Tom McCarthy, a person named Tillet, now connected with the gas workers, and Wier, not in any way connected with the gas workers, addressed the meeting. The prisoner seconded a resolution, and made a speech, detailed in evidence, and upon which the present charge was founded. His utterances had been repudiated by the chairman, and his action by the London Society of Compositors, who, through Mr. Beale, had stated that the society was in no way represented at the meeting. Mr. Fulton described the language as being of a highly inflammatory character, and there could be no doubt as to its tendency. It was asked that the prisoner should be committed for trial.

**The Prisoner's Speech.**

Police constable Lambert deposed that he attended what purported to be a meeting of gas workers on strike on the 22nd of December. He directed his attention to No. 4 platform, Mr. Tom McCarthy in the chair. The prisoner and others were on the platform. The chairman made an opening speech, and a person named Tillet proposed a resolution. The witness could write shorthand. The resolution was: "That this meeting condemns the endeavours of the South Metropolitan Gas Company to force upon their employees the bonus scheme as a seductive bribe to prevent the workers from obtaining their just rights." The prisoner seconded this resolution and made a speech. Witness took notes of a portion of the speech, which read as follows:—"I can tell you that the 8,000 men that I represent are prepared to stand by you to the utmost. I am unable to support you myself, but I can tell you that my heart is with you. Mr. Livesey has got £40,000. Remember that he got it out of the working men. I say that it is a standing disgrace that he should be allowed to draw it out of you. Why should he be allowed to use it against you? Working men of the country would not put up with it from a monarch. The sooner he is got rid of the better. He says he will stick to those men who have supported him. I say that he has no right to live, and I say that the man would be a hero that went to-night and murdered him." (Cheers, and cries of "No.")—Mr. Fulton: That is the way it was received.—The Witness: Yes. He proceeded: "I regret to know that the men making the gas to-day are making it in ignorance and I feel certain that if you could only get hold of them that they would side with you. I would make George Livesey make the gas himself. He has said that he is very well satisfied with the men. I think it is a bad job when he does not have to make it himself. I ask these men to pass this resolution. Stand shoulder to shoulder, and the compositors will stick to you in your trouble." This was the conclusion of the speech, and Mr. McCarthy, the chairman, got up, and addressing the meeting said: "I must tell you I cannot agree with the remarks of the previous speaker as to a man being a hero who would murder another man." Shortly afterwards the meeting broke up.—Cross-examined, the witness said the prisoner said a great deal more than the witness noted. He selected that part in which he made mention of the murder of Mr. Livesey.

**A Reporter's Evidence.**

—Mr. R. G. Emery, of the *Morning Post* staff, deposed that he attended the meeting in question, and heard the greater part of the prisoner's speech. He said: "I say that a man like Livesey has no right to live, and ought to be got rid of. A man like Livesey has no moral right to live in this country, and the man would be a hero who went to-night and murdered him. Such a man would be a hero, and one we ought to worship." The next witness was: "There is not much of me, but what there is I am ready to sacrifice myself for the cause of my fellows." After he had closed his speech he got down from the cart and the witness asked him for his name. He replied "Wier," and spelt it.—Thomas McCarthy, a stevedore, at present employed in organising a dock labourers' union, who presided at platform No. 4 at the meeting, said that he expostulated with the prisoner over his speech, and told him he should attack it.

**Mr. Livesey in the Witness-box.**

—Mr. George Livesey, chairman of the South Metropolitan Gas Company, deposed that it had been his duty to organise the attempt to counteract the effect of the strike. His attention was directed to the speech made by the prisoner and reported in the public press. The witness believed he was the person referred to. He took no action in the matter, and now attended on subpoena.

**Statement by the Accused.**

—Police-inspector Thomas Great deposed to arresting the prisoner on a warrant at the office of the London Society of Compositors, Racquet-court, Fleet-street. He admitted speaking in Hyde Park. When the warrant was read he said, "That is not true. I was speaking of the £40,000 that had been accumulated by the men that were fighting them to-day. I said that the Emperor of Brazil had been turned out for no reason whatever compared with what Mr. Livesey had done, and that if he had been living in Brazil he would not have been allowed to live twenty-four hours. I was not referring to this country at all, and had no intention to refer to this country. I had no intention of being there. I was with a friend in Hammersmith, and was invited by some person in the park to second the resolution. I have spoken at heaps of meetings. I should not be so foolish as to ask for a man to be murdered." He was conveyed to King-street and searched. A card of membership of the London Society of Compositors was found, and another document showing that he was elected sub-assistant secretary of that society in December, 1889.—The prisoner, who reserved his defence, was formally committed for trial.

**The Supply of Gas.**

The supply of gas at the stations of the South Metropolitan Gas Company continues to be satisfactory, the work of manufacturing proceeding without a hitch, and the supply of seaborne coal is ample. There has been no stoppage of the delivery of coal at any of the riverside places where it has been usually brought, and no delay is likely to ensue, owing to the complete arrangements made by the company. In consequence of the intimation that the River Thames was being picketed by the members of the Sailors and Firemen's Union, with the purpose of stopping the company's coal supplies, Mr. Livesey had an interview with the chief officials of the Thames police, and arrangements were then made to protect the company's coal vessels from being boarded by the pickets. The present stock of coal at all the company's stations was larger, Mr. Livesey stated, than it was this time last year, and there

was a good supply of steamers still on their way to London.

**Meeting of the Strike Hands.**

A large meeting of the men on strike was held at Lambeth on Wednesday night, contingents marching up from Greenwich, Battersea, and Old Kent-road.—Mr. T. Bailey, chairman of the Southwark County Labour League, presided, and said the men did not want to strike, but only asked for arbitration and conciliation. Public opinion was against them because the real cause of the dispute was not known. The question was whether there should or should not be a fixed look-out throughout England. If there was, the responsibility rested upon Messrs. Livesey and company. The union was not bankrupt, and had made every preparation for a struggle.—Mr. Hutchinson, president of the Gas Stokers' Union, moved "That this meeting of combined unionists pledges itself to support the gas stokers now out upon strike belonging to the South Metropolitan Gas Company against the tyrannical attempt upon the part of Mr. Livesey to smash up the Gas Stokers' Union with an unfair agreement and bonus scheme."—Mr. Stockbridge, vice-chairman of the Lambeth Board of Guardians, seconded the motion. He said the bonus scheme was but an attempt to destroy the Labour Union. Mr. Livesey had said that he did not want to interfere with the Labour Unions; but, according to the agreement, a stoker now earning 5s. 7d. a day might be compelled in the course of the year to become a yardman at 2s. a week. If that was not interfering with the union's classification of their men he did not know what was. The present was really a battle on behalf of the individual right of the labourer to live against class monopoly. The present position had been unfairly thrust upon the men; but they were fighting for a great principle, and he called upon them to stick to their guns.—The motion was carried.—It was also stated that two or three other unions are levying on their members for the purpose of assisting the gas stokers.

**The 'Busmen's Agitation.**

A meeting of the committee of the London and County Omnibus and Tramway Employees Union, held on Wednesday afternoon, discussed the London Road Car men's grievances. It was stated that the promises made by the directors on the occasion of the recent dispute, which nearly ended in a strike, had not been carried out. A general opinion was expressed that decisive action was necessary. It was resolved to hold an extraordinary meeting of the committee to consider the matter. It is stated that the company intend dispensing with all unionist men.

**SHOPLIFTING IN THE WEST-END.**

At the Marylebone Police Court on Friday Sarah Bennett, 45, married, living at Woodfield place, Harrow-road, was charged, on remand, with stealing four silk handkerchiefs and a steel necklace, the property of Mr. William Whiteley, of Westbourne Grove, Baywater. There was a further charge of stealing six pocket handkerchiefs, worth 7s. 6d., belonging to Messrs. Dobb, drapers, &c., of Westbourne Grove.—On the 20th December the prisoner went into Mr. Whiteley's shop and, while purchasing a small article, she adroitly took four silk handkerchiefs from a box on the counter, and put them under her cloak. While the assistant was paying into the desk the money she had received from the prisoner for the article she had purchased, another assistant named Lewis saw the prisoner take a steel necklace, for which she made no attempt to pay. After the prisoner had left the counter, Miss Sennett, the assistant, spoke to Mr. Pawsom, the superintendent, and he went after the prisoner, and stopped her just as she had got into the street. When asked for the silk handkerchiefs she pretended to be surprised, and to know nothing about them. She was taken back to the shop, and when spoken sharply to she produced the handkerchiefs, and, in the presence of Mr. Whiteley, prisoner offered to pay for them. She could not tell what had induced her to yield to the temptation. She was then given into custody. Later on her home was searched by Detective-sergeant Wright, F Division, who reported to the magistrate that he had found about one thousand articles at her home, all being quite new. Some of them had tickets on, and had been identified as having been obtained from Messrs. Whiteley, Messrs. Dobb, Messrs. Owen, and other Westbourne Grove firms, but except in one instance, and that at Messrs. Dobb's, no one could prove that the property had not been purchased in the ordinary course. Amongst the articles found were false teeth, six cashmere jackets, and four purses.—The prisoner's husband was charged with receiving the property with a guilty knowledge, but was afterwards discharged.—Mr. Cooke having decided to deal with the first case only, Mr. Freke Palmer, solicitor (who defended) said his client would plead guilty to the charge. It was extraordinary conduct on her part, for she had occupied the position of housekeeper and lady's maid to a lady in Ledbrooke Gardens for thirty years, and after the lady's death, in May last, she married.—Having heard witnesses to the prisoner's previous good character, Mr. Cooke passed sentence of three months' hard labour.

**DARING BURGLARY AT ISLINGTON.**

Henry Court, 48, of Carmarthen-street, Holloway, was charged at Clerkenwell Police Court on Friday, with being concerned, with another man not in custody, in breaking into the dwelling-house, No. 7, Charles-street, Islington, and with stealing therefrom some bedding, two counterpanes, a clock, and an overcoat, the property of Edward Exton, builder.—Ellen Eastbrook, young woman, living in the same house as the prosecutor, said she was standing at the front door on Thursday evening, when the prisoner and another man, who were walking along the street, rushed past her into the house. They forced open the door of a room in the basement, tenanted by the prosecutor, and stole the articles mentioned in the charge. She was the only person in the house at the time, and was unable to prevent the robbery.—The prosecutor stated that before leaving the house at seven o'clock in the evening he saw the prisoner and his companion loitering about outside. On being told, on his return, of the burglary, he gave a description of the men to the police. At one o'clock in the morning, in company with Detective-sergeant Stacey, the prosecutor saw the men in Motherid-street. The officer seized hold of Court, who struck him a blow on the head, and the other man ran away. The sergeant, with the assistance of the prosecutor, managed to overpower the prisoner, and to convey him to the police station. The stolen property was not recovered.—The prisoner was remanded.

**LORD SALISBURY'S INDISPOSITION.**

During the past week the Prime Minister has been confined to his room with a severe attack of influenza. For some days he took no solid nourishment, and was regularly attended by a medical man. The Queen and the Prince of Wales requested that the latest information as to his lordship's condition should be telegraphed to them night and morning. On Friday Lord Salisbury was decidedly better.

**CERTIFICATES SUSPENDED.**

Judgment was delivered on Thursday at Liverpool in the Board of Trade inquiry into the stranding of the Liverpool steamer Mauritia on the Spanish coast, while on a voyage from Cardiff to Barcelona, in October last. The court found that the stranding was caused by the recklessness and carelessness of the captain and second officer, and suspended the certificate of the master, William Peters, for six months, and that of the second officer, John Lowe, for three months.

Mr. R. K. Causton, M.P., will take the chair at the annual dinner of the Commercial Travellers' Benevolent Institution, to be held on the 14th January.

During the fog on Thursday, a Great Northern Company's guard, named John Haslam, aged 35, married, with one child, of Ardley, near Wakefield, received such injuries whilst shunting near Keighley, that he died the same evening.

The London Journal. Best weekly toy book. Illustrated Every Tuesday. One Penny. Order of our News-vendor.—Adams.

THE STEPNEY CHILD MURDER.

Infant Found in a Box.

At the Thames Police Court on Thursday, Isabella Duncan, a domestic servant, and a native of Portsey, Scotland, who was lately in service at Aberdeenshire, was brought up charged with feloniously killing her newly-born male child by concealing its throat. She was further charged with the birth of the same.—Mr. Angus Cowell, D. Division, watched the case on behalf of the commissioners of police. During the hearing of the evidence the accused appeared to feel her position most acutely, and was accommodated with a seat at the side of the dock.—Dr. J. W. Evans said on Tuesday morning, the 3rd ult., he was called to St. Charles-street, Stepney. He saw the prisoner, who was dressed and sitting up. He said to her, "What is the matter?" And she replied, "Nothing is the matter with me." Witness then told her that the landlady had thought there was something wrong with her, and she again replied that there was not, and added that she was going out. He asked her if she would submit to be examined in order to see whether she had been confined, and she declined to allow it. He was again called to the house the same evening, and then found the accused in bed. He again asked her if she had been confined, and she made no reply. The next morning he sent his assistant to see her, and from what the latter told witness he went to the house. The prisoner was in bed. He was shaved, a key and opened a box with it. In the box he found the body of a newly-born male child. There was a cut across the windpipe nearly two inches long. It was a clean cut. The accused told him that the baby was all right when it was born, and she could not account for its being hurt. He afterwards made a post mortem examination, and then found that the cut was about a quarter of an inch in depth and had severed the windpipe, jugular vein, and carotid artery. All the organs of the body were healthy, and the lungs had been fully inflated, showing that the child had breathed. The cause of death was due to the injury to the throat. The penknife produced, in a strong hand, might have caused the injury.—Mr. G. Moreland, assistant to the last witness, said the accused admitted that she had given birth to a child, and that it was in a box in a corner of the room. He opened the box and saw the body of the child. He noticed the wound in the throat.—The doctor stated that the accused told him that the baby was all right when it was born, and she could not account for its being hurt. He afterwards made a post mortem examination, and then found that the cut was about a quarter of an inch in depth and had severed the windpipe, jugular vein, and carotid artery. All the organs of the body were healthy, and the lungs had been fully inflated, showing that the child had breathed. The cause of death was due to the injury to the throat. 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